## **STOURBRIDGE**



Thursday, February 27, 2014

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## **Charity raids**

Mean thieves hit group three times Page 2



## **Beard battle**

Hairy ale lovers look for the best whiskers



## **Fame returns**

Musical lives forever with a major revamp



## **Officers** sniff out hoard of cannabis

TWO men have admitted producing cannabis with a street value of £40,000

producing cannabis with a street value of £40,000 which was grown in a garage behind a pub.

They were caught after a police officer noticed the strong smell of cannabis coming from a garage at the back of The Steps pub, in Stourport. They returned to raid the premises the following morning and discovered a total of 145 plants in two tents inside the garage.

Mark Flack, 32, of Seven Dwellings View, Brierley Hill, admitted producing cannabis and was jailed for two and a half years.

Pub landlord, Kevin Fletcher, 54, who lives at the premises in Gilgal, Stourport, also admitted producing cannabis. He was given a 12 month prison sentence suspended for 18 months and ordered to carry out 250 hours unpaid work.

Both men were also ordered to pay £600 costs at Worcester Crown Court.

Fletcher told police he had rented the garage informally to two men for £100 a month. When he discovered the cannabis growth leagreed to take £1,000

a month. When he discovered the cannabis growth he agreed to take £1,000 to keep quiet although he never received the money. Pc Amanda Watkins of West Mercia Police said: "A police officer driving past smelt cannabis very strongly. Officers literally followed their noses and sniffed it out."

### **Harrier wins** heart race

HUNDREDS of runners pounded the streets of Dud-ley an annual charity event to support a cardiac rehabil-

itation unit.

The annual five-mile Action Heart run took place aid of the charity on Sunday with 440 in the race which started and finished at Rus-

started and misshed at Russells Hall Hospital.

The winner was Martin Williams, of Tipton Harriers, in a time of 26 minutes and 33 seconds, while the fastest woman was Melanie James in 31 mins 54 secs.

## URORE OV KINGP

#### Report by Louise Jew

BUSINESSES and residents in Stourbridge 'Old Quarter' are seeing red over a proposed £95-a-year parking permit scheme aimed at stopping shoppers and workers jamming into their streets when they visit the nearby town centre.

But a councillor claims that the project - which would need 80 per

## But a councillor claims that the project – which would need 80 per cent of residents to vote for parking – is now unlikely to go ahead. Residents from 45 streets currently being consulted about the idea of being charged to park in the designated area – with visitor vouchers costing extra – flocked to a social networking site to vent their anger. Dudley Council, which is consulting residents, says it could be a solution following complaints about visitors and workers parking in surrounding residential streets, apparently to avoid paying to use town centre car parks. But it has created a furore with nearly 150 residents joining a Pacebook site – 'Say No to residential parking permits in Stourbridge Old Quarter'. account lie

EVERYONE dreams of becoming a millionaire but one house-hunter thought it was as easy as forging a statement. Bethany Pole tried to convince estate agents that she had £1 million in the bank.

But the 22-year-old's ruse was discovered and she pleaded guilty to making a fake bank statement at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday.

bank statement at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday.
Pole told estate agents in 2012 that she wished to buy the house in Moss Grove, Kingswinford, and the court heard that she had agreed to rent the property at £900-permonth before the sale had been completed.
When a cheque bounced, she was quizzed by the agents. Pole, from Old High Street, Quarry Bank, provided a print off that suggested she had more than £1 million in her bank account. Mr Edward Soulsby told the court: "The estate agents were not satisfied and when they contacted the bank they discovered this was not the amount."
Items from the house had been taken in-

covered this was not the amount."

Items from the house had been taken including flooring worth £8,000.

Pole pleaded guilty to fraud and making an article for use in fraud. She will be sentenced on March 18.

Mr Soulsby added: "As a result of this, the victims were not able to make payments for their mortgage and the house was repossessed by the bank."

## Hole-in-one world record hope



 ${\bf Golfer\ Shaun\ Messer,\ right,\ with\ his\ fellow\ Dudley\ Swiller\ Craig\ Biddulph}$ 

A FIREMAN wowed his fellow golfers after hitting an incredible 157-yard hole-in-one with his putter.

Shaun Messer, a fire safety officer, was on an annual golfing trip in Thailand with the Dudley Swillers when he managed the amazing shot, on the par three 17th hole of the Red Mountain course in Phuket

The current world record for a hole in one

when Fergus Muir successfully sank a putt measuring 125 yards on the Eden Course at St Andrews Links, Scotland.

It is not yet known if Mr Messer's remarkable shot would comply with all the specific guidelines for it to become a new Guinness World Record, which includes whether the golf ball would conform with specifications set out in the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

## Housing rent rise attacked by Tories

A HIKE in rent rates for council tenants in Dudley has been condemned for hitting cash-strapped families.

The rent rise forms part of a project to spend £206 million on improving thousands of council homes in the borough.

Dudley Council agreed to increase rents by 1.5 per cent and approve the multi-million scheme at a meeting this week. The rise works out as an average of meeting this week. The rise works out as an average of £1.22 a week from April but is lower than last year's increase of 4.6 per cent.

Conservative councillors say the Labour-run council is imposing an increase which could have been avoided.

Tory housing spokesman Councillor Bob James said: "Under the last Labour government, councils were required to increase rents

oncer the rast Labour of the control of the control

### Four hurt in car accident

THREE men and a nine-year-old boy were injured in a crash involving two cars and a parked van.

The collision happened on the Halesowen Road, Netherton, at about 5.25pm on Sunday. A Mazda crashed into the parked van before hitting an oncoming Renault Megane, in which the boy was a passenger. The Mazda driver had been pulled out by paramedics when fire crews arrived but they had to cut the roof off to free a passenger.

website www.wombourne-windows.co.uk

train crash and the consultation is a snam-bles." Magician John Milner, of Brook Street, said: "I don't think there are any good solutions and think that the present situa-tion for the majority of residents is proba-bly the best outcome."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed encouraged residents to around to the second that the

residents to respond to the consultation by March 7. March 7.

But Councillor Barbara Sykes added:
"The chances of it going through are virtually non-existent now."

Risk

Stuart Millward, aged 37, of the House of Magic in Brook Street, said the scheme would drive him out of business.

He estimated that at least eight shops, employing around 30 local people, in Brook Street and Clifton Street, would also be at risk.

Other business owners fear for their future if the scheme goes ahead including John Stephens, of Stephens Carpet Warehouse in Brook Street, and Clifton Street traders Richard Dowen, of the Washeteria and Duvet Centre, Graham Lench, of GCL Video, Jason Hampton, of J&R's gents hair stylists, his mother, neighbouring hairdresser Carol-Ann Perks and Tony Cooper, landlord of the Clifton Buildings. Russell Eden, 52, who lives in the Old Quarter, said: "It's a complete and utter train crash and the consultation is a shambles."

Risk

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Have you got a story or an event you want covered The Chronicle and Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Stourbridge who can help:

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## Wildlife and flowers set to flourish Council's

DARK and overgrown woodlands will be transformed into colourful wildlife havens thanks to a \$200,000 cash grant. Money has been given to the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country.

Natural England has handed over the cash after being impressed by the way the trust works with communities to improve its woodlands.

Milking Bank in Dudley and Row-

benefit.

Birmingham's Cannon Hill Park
will also be improved thanks to the
£200,000 cash injection.

Under the project dense areas of
woodland will be cleared and new
trees and plants added.

Bosses say they hope to create 'attractive areas for people to enjoy and for wildlife to flourish'. "The extra money is a real demonstration of confidence in the brilliant urban nature conservation

ment area programme manager for Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust, said: "This is fan-tastic opportunity to make better places for people and wildlife right across Birmingham and the Black Country by creating species-rich woodlands from species-poor plan-tations

who is involved in these projects should be proud of what they're achieving because the impact of it will be felt for years to come."

Bluebells, wood anemone and primroses will be among the plants and flowers used in thinned-down

areas of woodlands Volunteers will also be drafted in help to carry out the clearing and planting work.

## A NEW smartphone app designed to give people the knowledge and confidence to support someone with de-mentia was being launched with a theatre performance in Halesowen this week.

app for

advice on dementia

in Halesowen this week.
The mobile application
has been produced by Dudley Council's dementia gateway service in partnership
with community interest
company, Equip 4 Change.
People will be able to
download the app from the
council's website to their
smart phone or other device.

#### **Priority**

It was being launched during a special performance of Finding Joy, a play performed by mask and mime company Vamos on yesterday evenign at the Cornbow Hall.

Cornbow Hall.
Councillor Dave Branwood, cabinet member for adult, community and housing services on the council, said: "Supporting people with dementia and their families is a key priority for the council. As the number of people with dementia is predicted to rise in coming years, our new app can ing years, our new app can provide information about its effects and the support available locally."

### Blaze broke out at pub

A MAN was taken to hospi-tal after a fire broke out in a kitchen at a Stourbridge

pub.
Fire fighters were called
to the blaze at the Royal
Exchange Pub on Enville
Street just after midnight
on Saturday.
When they arrived they
discovered a fire in a kitchen
in the residential area of the
premises.

A man who investigated the fire had to be treated for smoke inhalation and was taken to hospital as a pre-

The pub, which is a mid-terraced property, wasn't open at the time.

### Raging brew

BREW talking to me? A beer in tribute to movie star Robert De Niro is going on sale in pubs run by Holden's Brewery.

The Woodsetton brewery is releasing a different movie-themed ale each month. March's brew, Aging Bull, is a 4.8 per cent strength beer.

## Special' protection on public transport

to patrol buses, trains and trams in the West Midlands following the murder of Halesowen

Midlands following the murder of Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins.

The recruits taken on by West Midlands Police and British Transport Police form part of the Safer Travel team and will be the first "Specials' dedicated solely to policing the region's public transport.

Sixteen-year-old Christina Edkins was stabbed to

tina Edkins was stabbed to death by paranoid schizo-phrenic Phillip Simelane as she sat on a bus in Hagley Road, Birmingham, when on her way to school in Halesowen on March 7 last

year. Simelane has been sentenced to be detained indefinitely under the Mental Health Act.
West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Bob

Jones vowed to make public

Jones vowed to make public transport safer.

The 12 volunteers were sworn in as Special Con-stables at a ceremony at the Safer Travel Command Centre in Birmingham. The men and women include full-time students and bus drivers.

drivers.

Inspector Lee Gordon, in charge of the Safer Travel Team, said: "I am delighted to welcome these new officers to the team. Special Constables make a valuable

contribution to local policing

and provide an important link with the community.

financial year.

## Our region really means business

A BLACK Country town has been ranked among the most promising investment locations in Europe.

The high ranking from FDi magazine, a Financial Times publication, has been welcomed by business

The magazine has placed Walsall seventh in the European regions for business friendliness in the small city category, appearing above Oxford and Geneva.

#### **Boost**

In a further boost, the Black Country's Local En-terprise Partnership, which brings business and council bosses together to boost the

bosses together to boost the economy, was placed 10th best in the country.

The magazine assessed a mixture of data and expert opinion to rank European cities, towns and regions in categories including busicities, towns and regions in categories including busi-ness friendliness, economic potential, cost-effectiveness, infrastructure, labour environment, and foreign investment strategy. Wayne Langford, head of Invest Black Country, said Black Country firms were

Invest Black Country, sand Black Country firms were producing products sold across the world.

## Raiders target charity again



Steve Tracey surveys the damage at Christians In Action in Dudley's base

A CHARITY donating white goods to the poor has been cleaned out of much-needed stock following a third burglary in a month.

link with the community.

"They will provide a visible reassurance for people using trains, trams and buses, help reduce crime and make passengers feel safe and secure."

Mr Jones said: "I salute the Special Constables, they are remarkable people who serve the community and play a vital role in policing."

Crime on buses in the West Midlands has fallen by 67 per cent in six years to Christians in Action Genesis Project founder Steve Tracey has hit out at the 'scumbag' thieves who took the remaining items at their base in Dudley on Saturday night. The charity, based in the Thornleigh Trading Estate, had already been hit with a ton and a half of its stock stolen the week-67 per cent in six years to 2,398 incidents in the last

"We work so hard to help people and then scumbags like this come and take everything you have. "To be honest with you, I'm at my wits' end," said Mr Tracey.

"We have a waiting list of people needing washing machines, fridges but they won't be getting what they need now."

The charity was first targeted four weeks ago when the ago when thieves cut through fencing and made off with a lawn mower and four bikes.

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#### NEWS

## Widower died after bed fall accident

A WIDOWER died after suffering a head injury in a fall at a nursing home where he

was temporarily staying.

John Bowen, aged 93,
was attempting to get out of

John Bowen, aged 93, was attempting to get out of bed unassisted at Rosewood Nursing Home, Dudley, when he took a tumble.

Smethwick Coroners Court on Monday was told a member of staff had heard a bump at around 7am on February 17 and immediately looked in on him.

The retired structural engineer, of Oakland Drive, Gornal Wood, was found on the floor, lying on his back with an injury to his eye. He was rushed to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital where he died two days later.

Black Country coroner Mr Robin Balmain said medical cause of death was multiple intercerebral bleeding due to a head injury caused by the fall. He gave a conclusion of death by accident.

Mr Balmain said: "Mr Bowen was staying at the nursing home for respite

Mr Balmain said: "Mr Bowen was staying at the nursing home for respite care. Mr Bowen was wear-ing his pyjamas and it ap-pears he was trying to get out of bed. He had a history of being unsteady on his feet.

feet.

"His family say the care given to Mr Bowen was extremely good."

### Dinosaurs at safari park

VISITORS to West Midland Safari Park could soon be walking with dinosaurs as the attraction plans for a huge new investment. Park bosses at Bewdley are planning to open their own version of Jurassic Park with an open-air exhibition featuring life-size

hibition featuring life-size animatronic dinosaurs. The exhibition is being designed to be created on land occupied by the Safari Express train, which will be taken train, which will be taken out of use, and is being considered by Wyre Forest planners next month,

The new attraction would also feature a 4D cinema.

### **Antiques fair**

AN antiques fair will be held in Kinver this week-end. It will take place at Kinver Community Centre on Sunday between 10am and 3.30pm. Waverley Fairs helds on patients and colholds an antiques and collectors fair on the first Sunday each month at the cen-tre, Call 0121 550 4123.

## Doing it his way lands 'Sinatra' in court



Singer Jim McAllister

HE has performed across the world as a Frank Sinatra tribute act but Halesowen singer Jim McAllister certainly did something stupid at a

certainly did something stupid at a restaurant.

The 45-year-old, who has performed in Las Vegas, punched a glass table lamp and damaged a door after losing his cool because he believed he had been short-changed £100 by restaurant owner Nina Tiara. Worcester Magistrates Court heard the incident happened at the Rajdoot Tandoori restaurant near Droitwich on June 28.

Prosecutor Lesley Ashton said:
"He had been booked by the owner
of the restaurant. She left an envelope containing £300 for him as
payment but McAllister said he was
owed a payment of £400 for a cancelled date.
"M. Time are less to the containing the containing £300 for him as
payment of £400 for a can-

celled date.
"Ms Tiara explained she would not be able to pay him the £400. He became agitated and said Tm getting done again by you'. McAllister then stormed out of the conservatory and lashed out by punching a large table lamp and then a fluted glass container.

"There was damage to the door."
Sunil Jagatir, defending, said:
"There used to be a good working relationship between them but this started to break down after several times Ms Tiara had cancelled gigs at short notice leaving him around

£600 out of pocket.
"It came to a head this night as he "It came to a head this night as he was called at short notice but agreed to play with a fee of £300 being agreed. McAllister said for an extra £100 he would play to cover for previous cancelled dates. He only found £300 as payment. He was told he

could not speak to the owner and he became very angry and lashed out."
After the hearing, McAllister admitted 'losing it'. "Unfortunately as I left the restaurant I slammed the door and the glass in it smashed. I was just pushed over the edge, I have done the job for 18 years and have hundreds of happy clients."
McAllister, of Richmond Street, admitted criminal damage and was given a 12-month conditional discharge. He was ordered to pay £670 compensation with £85 costs and

compensation with £85 costs and £15 victim surcharge.

#### Search is on for the best taxi firm

NOMINATIONS are being collected for the taxi version of the Oscars taking place in Dudley.

People are being asked to be the driving force by putting forward their favourite taxi firm serving the horousity. the borough.

The Taxi Base of the

The Taxi Base of the Year award is an annual competition, run by Dud-ley Council, to celebrate good service provided by the borough's hackney car-riage and private hire taxi firms. This is the second wear the competition has year the competition has been run.

#### A diet dilemma with zoo youngster

with zoo youngster
IT'S not unusual for
youngsters not to be keen
on fruit and vegetables but
a four-month-old rhea at
Dudley Zoo called Boomer
only likes lettuce.
Keepers are trying to entice him with a wider menuand wean the hand-reared
bird off his baby food.
Armed with platefuls
of nutritious sliced apple,
carrot, cabbage and flaked
maize, keepers are trying
to encourage him. Keeper
Ben Vanes said: "We'll
continue working with him
every day until he's eating
everything we give him."

#### Recruits call on university 'Army'

STUDENTS and staff are being urged to sign up to a new army platoon which is being set up by the Univer-sity of Wolverhampton. The educational estab-lishment is to become one

of the first in the country to offer army training. It will see those who sign up made members of the Army Reserve, formally known as the Territorial Army.

#### Pie Factory in bid to expand

MAD O'Rourke's Pie Fac-tory pub, a long-estab-lished landmark in the Black Country, is set to ex-pand in a bid to cope with increasing demand and soaring customer num-bers, it has emerged.

Pete Towler, who stepped in to buy the site back from administrators in 2011, has now submitted expansion plans.

#### Wedding show

THE National Wedding Show is at the NEC from tomorrow to Sunday. The exhibition is ex-pected to attract more than 6,000 brides-to-be and fea-tures more than 250 wed-ding specialists.

## Skate and graffiti park will be one of the biggest

of the biggest skate parks in the country is being held this week.

Unit3sixty are working towards opening an indoor skate centre in a disused industrial unit in Stour-

A planning application has been lodged for a change of use for the premises and officials hope to be ready to open by May.

The park will cater BMX,
The back will cater BMX,

**Elected** 

Gavin Pardoe, from Unit3sixty, said "We have

ing to an agreement every-

Unit3sixty aims to pro-

There will also be a DJ

school,dance academy, shop and cafe.

It will also house a pur-

pose-built graffiti art centre with giant canvasses for graffiti artists to create their work and then have it show-cased around the skatepark.

Then it will be uploaded

onto an online graffiti gal-lery and put on sale.

mence

### Grant will fund more free meals for pupils

DUDLEY council has re-ceived a cash grant to help it provide free meals for

youngsters. From September all chil-

From September all chidren at key stage one level will be entitled to free meals. The council has received £855,000 from the Govern-ment to enable it to carry out work needed ahead of the scheme being launched in the borough. in the borough.

#### **Appreciation**

Appreciation

Councillor Tim Crumpton, cabinet member for children, libraries and lifelong learning, said: "I would like to express my appreciation to the council officers and school staff who are working hard to ensure that we will be ready for this.

"We have been allocated £855,000 towards the capital requirements to provide

£855,000 towards the capi-tal requirements to provide for this.

"This money will go to-wards things that must be purchased or physical alterations that must be made.
"The funding will be allo-

cated to specific projects in

## Mayor toasts volunteers with a cuppa



Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Finch and his wife Heather hosting local volunteers and award sponsors

VOLUNTEERS from across Dudley were invited to afternoon tea with the Mayor as a special thanks for their award-winning work.

Fourteen winners of last year's Dudley Volunteer Awards were given a tour of the Mayor's Parlour before enjoying a cuppa with Councillor Alan Finch to celebrate their achievements.

They were also presented with framed photographs from the awards evening

Among the winners was Christine Rich, who won the prestigious Gordon

Lindsay award for her long service to volunteering as a Friend of Priory Park.

Fourteen volunteers accepted the Mayor's invitation to his Chamber.

Mayor's invitation to his Chamber, including Brett Harris of Blaze hair-dressing salon in Kingswinford, who picked up the inaugural Business Supporting the Community award.

Other guests included 2013 Dudley Young Volunteer of the Year Emily Simmons and Keith Sabin of Dudley Sea Cadets. Laxmi Patel represented Shave Chieset High Venth, Chie Shree Gujarati Hindu Youth Club.

which was highly commended in the 2013 Young Volunteers of the Year category

Brendan McKeown, information officer for Dudley Council for Voluntary Service, said: "Councillor Finch invited the award-winning volunteers to have a guided tour of the Mayor's parlour and enjoy a cup of tea before presenting them with framed photographs from the 2013 awards evening with which to mark the borough's appropriation of their volunteering." preciation of their volunteering.

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A READER is troubled by the British Gas advert offering "unlimited" call-outs to fix your broken boiler. He says: "It doesn't say much for the quality of the plumbers they employ, does it?" He's got a point. What is the difference between unlimited call-outs and one flaming call-out after another?

#### 

FORTY religious leaders condemn government welfare policy and the numbers relying on food banks, and reap a rich crop of headlines ("Bishops Slam Cam Over UK's Hunger Crisis" - Daily Mirror). It is a puzzle of this cheerfully godless age of ours that we still pay attention to the views of people whose only claim to authority is being far more superstitious than the rest of us. 

DAVID Miranda this week lost his High Court case claim-DAVID Miranda this week lost his High Court case claiming he had been unlawfully detained at Heathrow while carrying computer files for his partner, Guardian journalist Glenn Greenwald. Miranda says he will appeal "and keep appealing to the end," and he probably will. A High Court case and subsequent appeals would bankrupt most folk but there always seems to be a bottomless pot of money for people fighting cases such as this. And six months after the incident, we still don't know what Miranda was doing at Heathrow in the first place. His mission was to after the incident, we still don't know what miranda was doing at Heathrow in the first place. His mission was to get from Berlin to his home in Brazil. He could have taken any number of direct flights. Instead, bizarrely, he flew into one of only two countries in the world (the other being the United States) where he was likely to be detained. The flight was arranged and paid for by the Guardian. Amid all the tub-thumping about national security and press freedom, we are not being told even half of this story. If I were a conspiracy theorist I might think the Guardian brought Miranda to Heathrow as part of a win-win operation. If he gets nicked you have a great story about the UK authorities attacking press freedom. If he doesn't get nicked, you have a great story about tens of thousands of confidential files slipping in and out of the country under the noses of bungling cops. Gosh, what an old cynic I am.

WITH the row over keeping the pound and losing EU membership, the Scottish independence debate was looking like one of those deliciously civilised divorces when the couple are determined to stay friends. She when the couple are determined to stay friends. She wants the Volvo? No problem. He wants the piano? Be my guest. And then suddenly you hit a raw point. The civilised smiles vanish. Spitting, snarling fury takes over. What's that? You'd like the dog, too? Over my dead body, you greedy cow. But the longer this saga drags on, the more you realise it isn't like a divorce at all. A married couple is made up of two separate bodies but Scotland and England are hard-wired into each other. We share the same blood, muscle and sinews. Independence is like separating a pair of conjoined twins. Given enough time and clever, skilled surgeons, it might be done with both twins surviving. But time is running out and we don't see much skill or cleverness, just a lot of posturing and waving of claymores. This could get very bloody indeed.

A READER enquires: "Does the chairman of a fishing club have the casting vote?"

#### .

A GREAT little documentary on BBC World Service told how the locals looted (or "saved," as they put it) the cargo of whisky from SS Politician, a cargo ship which sank in 1941 off the Scottish island of Eriskay. Which sails in 1941 oil the Scottish island of Enskay. The plundering of thousands of cases of single malt was the basis of the book and film Whisky Galore! and has been told many times. But the radio documentary reveals that some islanders were so "under the influence," as one old chap put it, that they forgot where they had buried it. It's still up there . . .

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes** every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

## Cause of plane crash is revealed

AN engine lost power and a pensioner's plane landed upside down as it crashed in a field near Wolverhampton Halfpenny Green Airfield, a report has said.

A new report into the incident—which happened last October and saw the pilot walk away without a scratch—says he also made an incorrect selection on his control pad after the engine failure.

The pilot was trapped in the

cockpit of the plane, which received damage to its fin and the propeller. However, the 65-year-old, flying a 1982-built Cassutt Racer craft, owned by Dudley man Terence Dennis Gardner, was uninjured.

The report says the crash happened on the morning of October 19 and the pilot, who had 303 hours' flying experience, was engaged in 'circuit practice'.

circuit, the engine lost power. Unable to reach the runway, the pilot a 1982-built Cassutt Racer craft, owned by Dudley man Terence Dennis Gardner, was uninjured.

The report says the crash happened on the morning of October 19 and the pilot, who had 303 hours' flying experience, was engaged in 'circuit practice'.

It added: "On base leg of the first is a ploughed for about 50 ft before pitching over, inverted some 250 to 300m before the runway threshold."

If pitched over, inverted, and he was trapped in the cockpit unit rescued by the Airfield Fire Service.

"He believes that he may have inadvertently selected the mixture control to fully lean on the down wind leg instead of applying the arburettor heat. The aircraft rolled

## Mother relieved by life means life ruling

Stuart Gough has spoken of her relief that British judges have upheld 'life means life' sentences, which should ensure her son's

Jean Gough said: "The European court said its de-cision was for human rights but what about Stuart's but what about stuarts human rights? I'm glad that our own legal system has seen sense."
Stuart, from Worcester

Stuart, from Worcester Road, a student at Hay-bridge High School, was snatched by Miller, of Penn Fields, on January 17, 1988. His body was found 50 miles from home in a remote wood near Ledbury, Hereford-shire, two weeks later. The discovery was made

The discovery was made after Miller was arrested for threatening to kill an abat-

The European court had ruled whole-life sentences had to have the possibility of release and to be compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights there should be some way of having a sentence reviewed after 25 years. That followed an appeal by murderers Jeremy Bamber, Douglas Vinter and Peter Moore.

In the latest Court of Appeal ruling, the panel of five judges found that the Strasbourg court had been wrong in its conclusion that the law of England and Wales did not; clearly provide the

did not clearly provide the possibility that a whole-life prison term could ever be reduced. They said a power of review arose if there were

"exceptional circumstances" Lord Chief Justice Lord Thomas said judges could continue to give life sentences for the worst crimes.

Talks on historic landmark

Now it has emerged that a working group is being set up to try and come up with options for the site.

Owners Severn Trent Water say they will work with officials to 'find a long term solution for its future'.

The pumping station is one of only 50 of its kind in Eng-and. It was built in 1895.

## Beards and beer go together



Bearded brewer James Fownes, right, with landlord Tony Colpitt and finalist Derwin Bennett

TALKS will be held to try and secure the future of the historic Bratch Pumping Station in Wombourne. The Grade II listed building, has fallen into a state of disrepair in recent years and there have been fears for its LONG 'Uncle Albert' style, short, 'mutton-chops', goatee or 'musketeer'.... The ownchops', goatee or 'musketeer'.... The own-ers of some very fine facial hair are groom-ing themselves ready for the Black Country 'Beard of the Year' contest.

Even the ladies are included with a category for them to show off fake beards they have fashioned.

the Wheatsheaf pub in Birmingham Road, Walsall, on March 1. Brothers James and Thomas Fownes, who run the brewery in Clarence Street, Upper Gornal, sport beards themselves. They call themselves a 'Dwarfen brewery' with their beers inspired by Norse myths and fantasy literature.

ave fashioned. Members of Wolverhampton Campaign
The Dudley-based Fownes Brewing Co
holding the final of its hairy quest at

## **Author's** guide to Victorian way of life

A HISTORIAN from Stoubridge is celebrating the publication of her seventh book.

book.
Michelle Higgs, of Vale
Street, Amblecote, has
penned A Visitor's Guide to
Victorian England.
It is written in the style
of a travel guide and describes what people would
see, heard and smelt f they
could time travel to the the
Victorian era.
The book is aimed at fans
of social history, costume

Victorian era.

The book is aimed at fans of social history, costume drama and those with an interest in the 19th century.

The 42-year-old has previously written books about Victorian workhouses, prisons and hospitals but this is her first general Victorian social history.

"Tve been fascinated by the Victorian period for more than 20 years and I love looking for the little details that bring the story to life," she said.

"Tve always wanted to write a book like this, so it's a dream come true to finally

write a book like this, so it's a dream come true to finally see it in print."

Michelle is a supply teacher and freelance writer specialising in history and heritage.

Her next book will focus on domestic service from

on domestic service, from the servants' point of view.

### Jobless fall not reflected

UNEMPLOYMENT in the UK has fallen again but job queues are getting longer in Dudley.

Dudley.

National figures show a 125,000 drop in unemployment between October and December last year to 2.34 million.

In the West Midlands unemployment fell by 31,000 to 226,000, although at 8.2 per cent the region's jobless rate is higher than the 7.2 per cent national average.

But in Dudley the number claiming Jobseeker's Allowance last month was up 270 on December to 8,271, or 4.3 per cent of the borough's working nonulation working population.

#### Tribute to Elvis

ELVIS Presley tribute act
Mario Kombou brings his
The Elvis Years show to
Wolverhampton's Grand
Theatre for one night only
on Sunday. The two-hour
concert will feature 40 of the
King of Rock 'n' Roll's hits.
Tickets cost £19.50 plus
fees. Call 01902 429212.

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#### NEWS

## College **expands** in gallery takeover

CONVERSION of the con-troversial former Public arts centre and gallery into a sixth form centre will create hundreds more college spaces than first expected.

spaces than first expected.
Not only will the new
Central Sixth facility at the
New Street venue in West
Bromwich town centre have
space for 800 students, but
the move will also free up an
entire floor of the £77 million Sandwell College building at Spon Lane.

lion Sandwell College building at Spon Lane.
Sandwell College Vice-Principal Scott Upton said: "Central Sixth students currently occupy the entire sixth floor of Central Campus. Their move to The Public in September will allow other curriculum areas in the college to expand their provision and the numbers of students they can accommodate."

can accommodate."

Work has begun on the sixth form centre. Bosses have received nearly 1,000 applicants for places at the facility, which will open in September. Bosses say many of the unique spaces in the building will be used as seminar and 'breakout' environments for learning. The centre will be open to

The centre will be open to the public with a renovated café and exhibition space. A business support centre will also be provided.

### Club show for mavor's fund

TICKETS have gone on sale for charity variety show.
Eight musical and dance acts have been lined up for March 14. The night features Tony Gold and friends.
Money raised at the event will go to charities nominated by Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Finch.
The mayor's nominated charities are Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and White House Cancer Support.

for Deaf People and White House Cancer Support.

The show starts at 8pm and will take place at Parkes Hall Social Club, on Parkes Hall Road, Dudley.

Tickets cost £3, available from the club or by calling Tony on 07909 886591.

#### **Talk on benefits**

THE British Polio Fellow-ship is to hold a talk at snip is to noid a talk at Woodfield Social and Sports Club, Penn, on Monday at 7pm. As part of the charity's 75th anniversary, informa-tion officer Laura Skorupa will explain benefit changes. Call 0800 018 0586 or visit www.britishpolio.org.uk

## People think we're racist, says Tory candidate NEW



A CONSERVATIVE candidate says the party has not done enough to convince voters that it is not 'rac-ist'.

ist'.

Afzal Amin, who is standing in Dudley North at next year's General Election, says that people from minority communities still perceive the party to be against them. He wants his party to talk to people from minority communities as the British citizens they are rather than 'as though they belong somewhere else'.

The Muslim former army captain,

aged 39, served tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He wants people from minority backgrounds to join the Conservative party and be selected as candidates but on their own merit rather than dut to other own merit rather than due to ethnic origin.

than due to ethnic origin.
"What's very clear to me is that
in the Sandwell and Dudley areas,
where I grew up and I now live, for
the vast majority of people, whether
they're black or from the Indian
subcontinent, the general perception is that the party remains a
racist party and we have not done

enough to convince them that this is not the case," he said.
"The policies we have are very, very good policies, and they are right policies but often we communicate with our ethnic minority voters as though they belong somewhere else. We can't communicate to our ethnic minority voters with the primary reference point being the countries that their fathers came from.

came from.
"My family and I do not want to be communicated to because our father came from India – talk to

me because of the NHS and other things that we are interested in."
Mr Amin is trying to unseat Labour's Ian Austin in the marginal Dudley North constituency.
He added: "When we talk about immigration we have to be unequi

He added: "When we talk about immigration we have to be unequivocal that we're not talking about people whose families came here three or four generations ago, we're talking about people coming now. The biggest economy in the world, the United States, was build on immigration. But we need to speak about sensible controls."

## Tour of hospital

maternity unit VISITORS to a hospital can go behind the scenes of the maternity department during a special tour next

month.
Staff at Russells Hall
Hospital in Dudley will also
be showing people around
the neonatal unit and children's ward to showcase

dren's ward to showcase the care, services and facilities available to patients. The tour takes place at 6pm on March 13. Places are limited, anyone wishing to attend shouldcall organiser Helen Board on (01384) 231124 or email helen.board@dgh.nhs.uk

#### Over the Edge strikes gold again

A VILLAGE brewery has won a gold award at the National Winter Ales Fes-

Over The Edge brewed

Over The Edge brewed by Kinver Brewery, near Stourbridge, was judged top in the barley wine category at the opening day of the festival in the Roundhouse, Derby, last week. Over The Edge, a 7.5 per cent strength ale has been West Midlands champion beer for two years running. Kinver Brewery, started by Dave Kelly and Ian Davies, is now based at Rocky Wall, near Kinver Edge.

#### Singing to help hospice funds

BRIERLEY Hill Musical Theatre Company present A Grand Night for Sing-ing on March 8. The event takes place at Brierley Hill Civic Hall, in Bank Street, from 7.30pm. Proceeds will be donated to Mary Ste-vens Horsite. vens Hospice.

Tickets cost £8, available from Irene Layton on 0121 550 8631 or the charity's fundraising department on 01384 377778.

#### Table top sale at the village hall

A TABLE top sale will be held at a village hall near Stourbridge.

The event is at Stourton Village Hall, off Bridgnorth Road, on Saturday, from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

People who would like a stall at the event are asked to call organisers on 01384 872073. Cash raised will go towards the upkeep of the village hall.

#### Fans in the saddle

BAGGIES fans are sought BAGGIES fans are sought for a 100k bike ride aiming to raise £500,000 for a chil-dren's charity, setting off from The Hawthorns on May 24. For details or to register visit www.wheels forchange.co.uk

## **Routes serving Merry** Hill get £1.2m revamp

A £1.2million plan to improve pedestrian and bus routes around Merry Hill has been lodged with planners and it is hoped work will start later this year.

Dudley Council has received Government funding to carry out the work which includes installing a traffic lights controlled crossing for shoppers on the Pedmore Road.

## Scheme to tackle last remaining bottleneck

ALTHOUGH the Merry Hill bus station plans have been put on hold, other projects in the Black Country have been more successful in get-

ting transport funding. The Cradley Heath interchange, next to the town's railway station, will be given

change, next to the town's railway station, will be given a £1.9 million revamp. As part of Centro's funding programme it will invest £3.3m on new buses, £1m of shelter and information improvements on eight key routes into Brierley Hill, and £700,000 towards the Black Country Swift smart card scheme in Dudley. Dudley Council is also working on a £4.2m plan to improve nearby Pensett High Street. It aims to help businesses as well as motorists in the borough including people travelling to Merry Hill and also Russells Hall Hospital.

Merry Hill and also Russells Hall Hospital.
The A4101 High Street used by many travelling from Kingswinford, has been described as 'the last remaining bottleneck' between the Pensnett Trading Estate and junction 2 of the M5 at Oldbury

The crossing is being built near the spot where 53-year-old taxman Chris Clarke was knocked down as he walked to work at the nearby HM Revenue & Customs at The Waterfront in April last year. His family has welcomed improve-

ily has welcomed improve-ments on the road.
Officers are working with transport authority Centro on the proposals and hope to secure planning permission for the scheme next month.

#### Junction

Changes will also be made to the junction of The Boulevard and Mill Street to provide priority to buses to make it easier for them to accessing and leaving the control A power proported. centre. A new segregated signal controlled bus lane

signal controlled bus lane and gate will be created. It comes after a planned £3m bus station at Merry Hill was shelved because transport bosses feared it would be too expensive. The council's transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "Planning ap-plications for both of these projects have already been submitted and it is likely they will be considered by submitted and it is likely they will be considered by the Development Control Committee next month be-fore work can start on site later in the year."

The council received £1.1m from the Government

towards the scheme and have earmarked a further £100,000 from the council's 2014/15 transport fund.



Flag unveiled for Commonwealth Day

With the Commonwealth flag at the Shri Venkateswara Balaji temple in Tividale is Lord Leiutenant Paul Sabapathy

DOZENS of civic dignitaries gathered for the ceremonial unveiling of a Commonwealth flag which will be noisted to mark the contribution of its nations to the UK.

I ne Shri Venkateswara Balaji Temple in Tividale was chosen to host the event which was held to officially hand over the flag which will be flown at council houses across the region to mark Commonwealth Day on March 10.

Around 150 leaders from authorities turned out for the occasion, as well as Her Majesty's Lord Lieuten-ant of the West Midlands, Paul Sa-bapathy, whose duty it is to represent the Queen, as well as the High Sheriff Christine Braddock.

#### Historic

Leo O'Toole, from the Hindu tem-ple's management team, said the venue was chosen because of its rep-utation for hosting inter-faith events

as well as supporting secular groups. He said: "It really was a unique and historic occasion which embraced the

temple's collaboration with all types of groups.

"It was rare indeed to welcome all the mayors of the West Midlands to-gether and a great honour for the temple."

temple."
Commonwealth Day is held to celebrate the UK's links and relationship with the Commonwealth nations, and the contribution they make to creating a more diverse culture.
Mr O'Toole added it was a pleasure to work with Sandwell Council to pro-

mote the gathering.

#### **ADVERTISEMENT**

## Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when

we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!



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#### **NEWS FEATURE**



SO, the men's curling team failed to make gold at the Winter Olym-

Truth be told. I was a little sur prised, I would have thought if there was any sport the British should be good at, it would involve young men in orange jump suits sweeping up stones with a

Or Community Payback, as it sometimes known.

MALFUNCTIONING vending machines are right up there with pay-and-display car parks and automated telephone-answering services when it comes to the scourges of modern life.

Their operators rake in a for-

Ineir operators rake in a for-tune from poor unfortunate indi-viduals who put money into them for no reward, before meekly walking away having decided that a 60p bar of chocolate is not worth only to were over worth going to war over.

Raise a glass, then, to Afghan war veteran Robert McKevitt, who is clearly made of much starper chiff.

who is clearly made of much sterner stuff.

Feeling a snack gap during his shift in a warehouse, he tried to buy a Twix from his work's vend

buy a twix from his work's vend-ing machine.

The machine swallowed his money without delivering the goods, so showing commenda-ble restraint he put another coin in the slot.

Deciding that a more direct

approach was needed, he then took a forklift truck to the errant machine, allegedly dropping it six times onto the floor, even-

trually releasing three Twix bars from the dispenser.

He got the sack, of course, but he did get a free Twix for his trouble.And struck a blow for disgruntled consumers everywhere 00000

NEXT time political commentators start banging on about the poor turnouts at elections in the poor turnouts at elections in this country, remember the car-nage that is taking place in the Ukraine at the moment and be grateful that the British are so splendidly indifferent.

spierioidly indifferent.

The Ukraine is a country divided, split down the middle between those who want greater links with what remains of the old USSR, and those who seek closer ties with the European Union.

How people can get so worked.

How people can get so worked up over politics seems ridiculous to us in Britain. But of course, all we have to worry about is which band of London-centric, well-to-do liberal types get the ministe-rial limos for the next five years, so it is hard to get too excited one way or the other.

By comparison, the choices facing the people of the Ukraine racing the people of the Ukraine are stark indeed. Half of the people seem to want to be ruled by an unelected, undemocratic empire which will suppress their liberty and stamp out their soverists. And the about work ereignty. And the other half want to be ruled by Russia.







## Come Together to hear Fab Four

Peter Dicks has Let It Be known he is dedicated to Beatles memorabilia, as **ROB GOLLEDGE** reports

'KNOCK-KNOCK' - 'who's there?' - 'One Direction' - 'One Direction, Who?' - 'Exactly!' jokes Peter Dicks.

It is a gag not unexpected from a man who for 13 years he has been reaching listeners across the globe as the host of the longest-running dedicated Beatles radio show in Europe – a show recorded in the basement of his semi-detached home in Walsall.

Peter's studio is crammed with every

Peter's studio is crammed with every type of Beatles-themed merchandise you could imagine.
Posters, photographs, a toy Yellow Submarine, Fab Four liveried Corgi cars, and wall-to-wall vinyl.
There is a story behind every gem among his hoard. How he obtained it, why it is significant, and why he loves it.

#### **Tenuous**

And his own personal story is an incredible one. It started with a chance appearance on a local radio station. Now he receives correspondence from Beatles fans all over the world and even Christ-was carde from Vales One.

fans all over the world and even Christmas cards from Yoko Ono.

But what makes his show unique is that he does not exclusively play The Beatles' tunes. He plays any music with a link, no matter how tenuous, to John, Paul, George, Ringo – even Stuart Sutcliffe and Pete Best.

He will play the music of Bob Dylan – explaining how the American singer-songwriter influenced the four Liverpudlians.

Another show will play 10.

pudnans.

Another show will play Doris Troy because she was signed to The Beatles' Apple Records label and would later go on to work with George Harrison.



Fan and presenter of Beatles and Beyond, Pete Dicks, from Walsall

He's even had guitarist Jackie He's even and gultarist Jackie Lomax, who was signed up to Apple Records and worked with Harrison and Eric Clapton, appear on his show, stay at his home, and play a private gig for him and his wife Janet. Any connection in any way, Peter is interested.

interested.
His own story started in 1999 when he was working for a motoring company in Birmingham and a colleague said he should write to the presenter of a local radio show about record collectors.
"He knew I collected records so said I should write in," he said. "So I wrote to

Mike Adams at BBC Radio Shropshire who presented The Record Collectors. "I was invited in and became a regu-lar and would sometimes find people for them to interview

them to interview.
"It was through Mike that I met John
Lennon's half sister Julia Baird.
"Mike then said he was thinking
about starting a radio station in Crewe,
Witch FM, and asked would I be interorted.

ested.
"I said that everything I play has a link to The Beatles - and it became Beatles and Beyond.
"I collected records well before the

show. It was not until the mid-60s when

show. It was not until the mid-60s when classical music was in Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band that 1 got into The Beatles - and it grew from there." He records his show every week on equipment in his basement and sends it out to a string of community radio stations - including WCRfm in Wolverhampton and Chase FM in Cannock.

Due to the rise of the internet his show is available for download on iTunes which has seen it picked up by stations across the Pond and is a big hit with listeners in the USA which is currently celebrating 50 years since The Beatles arrived in the States. It is the only radio show to be recommended by The Beatles Story exhibition in Liverpool.

Now, the self-employed agency worker has been asked to help write books, appear at events and represented John

pear at events and represented John Lennon on the BBC 'Greatest Britons' programme with Bill Harry, Paul Gam-baccini and Bob Harris in 2002.

#### Envelope

The 60-year-old's most-cherished possession is a personal autograph to him signed by George Harrisonand his favourite Beatles' tracks include I'm A Walrus and While My Guitar Gently

Weeps.
As I sit in Peter's front room above his recording studio, he puts on a CD of the

1 album.
"What is your favourite Beatles song he asks me?"
As I frantically think of something intelligent-sounding to say, I remark that Hey Jude has become intolerable with McCartney recling it out it seems at every opening of an envelope.
"Do you know about the swearing in Hey Jude?" Peter says excitedly.
"No," I exclaim.
With a cheeky grin he plays the song, turning up the volume at the key moment.

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nent. What is it? You will have to try to find

it for yourselves.
For more information on Peter and Beatles and Beyond go to www.beatle-sandbeyond.homestead.com

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## **THROUGH** THE YEARS

A PERTON mother-to-be had A PERTON mother-to-be had an amazing escape when her Mini was crushed beneath the wheels of an articulated lorry. While Lynn Pitt's car was severely damaged outside the Mermaid pub at Wightwick, the 26-year-old escaped with only cuts and bruises.

THERE was a new name in town for Black Country beer lovers, after Ansells announced lovers, after Anseils announced would be opening a new brew-ery in the area. The brewing gi-ant formed a new Black Country division called Holt, Plant and Deakin, and said it would be opening a small brewery at its Oldbury headquarters.

FORMER Wolves and England FORMER Wolves and England forward Jesse Pye died, aged 62. Pye, who starred alongside Billy Wright and Jimmy Mullen in the all-conquering Wolves sides of the 1950s, scored a hat-trick on his debut after signing for a fee of £10,000 in 1946. He also scored in the 1949 FA Cup final victory over Leicester City.

#### 1994

WOLVERHAMPTON ground to a standstill as the area was hit by unexpected heavy snow. Even the police reduced their car patrols as the borough council admitted it had failed in its efforts to clear the roads

PRIME Minister John Major admitted he was bewildered by youngsters who bought expensive jeans and then tore holes in them during a visit to a fashion show in the West Midlands.

A ROW broke out after Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean finished a disappointing third at the Winter Olympics in Norway. Ten years earlier, the pair had wowed judges who awarded them a 100 per cent score, but this time they finished behind two Russian duos. A TV poll found that the public thought they had been robbed this time around.

2004
FAMILIES were lining the walls of their homes with tin foil and installing mesh curtains over windows amid health fears over the number of mobile phone masts in the Wolverhampton area.
Adam and Nicola Wright, of Essington said they had stripped the wallpaper off the walls of their home and replaced it with foil to protect their children from what they believed were potentially dangerous emissions. dangerous emissions.

WOLVES legend Bobby Ma-WOLVES legend Bobby Ma-son unmasked an imposter of the same name who had been opening fetes and attending charity functions in his name. The pensioner had become a local celebrity by posing as the Tipton-born star, who played as inside forward during the club's glory years of the 1950s.



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Thomas & Janine

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We would definitely recommend you in the future."





## **LETTERS**

## We cannot go on polluting our world GP must be

scales The problem that we have now is the rate at which they are happening. If we look at our own country, the south-west has been flooded in the last seven winters and now we have seen hurricane strength winds in Wales.

Wales.
We get mild winters and constant rain.
The Arctic cap is 'rather substantial' but
it is a scientific fact that it is reducing due
to temperature change. Sea levels are rising
and that also is scientific fact.
The Amazon jungle is being cut down, In-

## IT is true that in history there have always donesia totally destroyed her forest for the been natural disasters on major and minor sake of palm oil and now the Burmese jun-

gle is under threat. Whilst Britain and Western Europe do try to operate greener policies, China (and India to a lesser degree) continues to belch India to a lesser degree) continues to belch out pollution on an enormous scale. China's rivers are a disgrace and the population of large cities have to wear masks because of smog. We cannot go on polluting our world and destroying our resources like this without there being some penalty.

S HUNT
Dudley

## Half year of hassle for a view

FOR reasons best known to rOR reasons best known to themselves those charged with regenerating Dudley town centre have decided the biggest 'problem' is that market shoppers cannot see the castle.

To correct this we are to have six months of half the have six months of half the town being less accessible to shoppers than ever before. Bus travellers are being asked to walk twice as far from the shops to their bus

Two dozen small busi-nesses which did have buses and cars stopping outside their front doors will, for six months, have no such pass-ing trade.

At the end of it all, should At the end of it all, should any of those businesses sur-vive, they will have the pub-lic loos moved thirty yards away from the town centre and their customers will be able to see the castle, which it is hoped will compensate them for losses incurred during this rebuilding pe-

Some hope E SHAW Dudley

#### to the Editor

#### **POST**

**Dudley Chronicle** Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES E-MAIL

Dudley @expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## From hard graft to Benefits Street

IN 1944, my Dad was with the Army fighting in Europe and I was living with my mother and three brothers

mother and three brothers in a back-to-back in Winson Green, Birmingham.

Mom does not know where Dad is and the area has been heavily bombed but there are no state hand outs for Mom — she is on because

outs for Mom — she is on her own.

To keep us all fed and clothed, first thing in the morning she cleans at a local pub, then she comes home and gets breakfast for us and sees my brothers off to school.

Then she takes me to unreserv before going to her

to school.

Then she takes me to nursery before going to her next job, cleaning at a big house in Edgbaston.

She rounded off her work-

in a factory.
But she still found time to keep us clean and to do the washing.

Sometimes, when she got back, we would all go down into the cellar and make bricks from the slack for the

I thought it fun but for

my Mom these must have been desperate times. Then, 1944, Winson Green — now, 2014, Ben-efits Street, Winson Green.

Compare and contrast — the word contempt springs to my mind.

B OSBORNE Dudley

## on bus route

WHAT a waste of money to build a new doctor's surgery of £8.5m and it's not on a good bus service and we have good one at Worcester Street which has been there

Street which has been there for over 60 years.

I'm in my 61st year and have mobility problems and have to use a stick for most of my walking. I'm not old enough to get an OAP pass and to use Ring and Ride you need one.

you need one.
Why build a new surgery when it's not on a bus route Every time now when I

need an appointment I will have to book a taxi there and back at a £5 every jour-

ney.

They did not ask the patients if they wanted a new

surgery.
S J ROBERTS
Norton
Stourbridge

### Bins dealt a major blow

WITH the recent spate of wind and rain we have seen the Dudley borough littered with blown over wheelie bins.

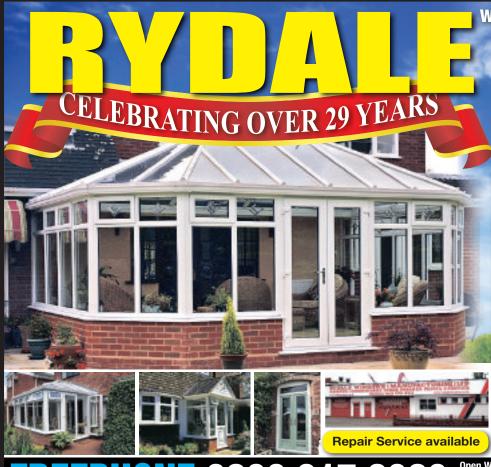
new style grey wheelie bins are blown over even when full of rubbish these bins are far too nar row and light.

Did Dudley Council ever think something so flimsy would stay upright in windy weather?

In the words of the Bob Dylan song: 'The answer my friend is blowing in the

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#### MEMORY LANE



Nandor Pekar with his wife Gwen in a restaurant in Budapest in 1986





Rich Pekar, left, is having his book turned into a film by Prof Peter Rudge



Keen motorcylist Nandor on a bike in 1957



Author Rich Pekar, left, with Prof Peter Rudge

## Father's story to be made into a £4m fili

forced to flee his native Hungary in 1956 after taking part in the uprising against Russian occupying forces.

He arrived in Staffordshire where he found sanctuary, a job and love. But 30 years on, after leaving suicide notes to his family, he took his own life

aged 48.

His remarkable and ultimately tragic story was written down and finished by his son Richard, a product development leader at Rugeley's Armitage Shanks with the Polish Club in Stafford Road, Wolverhampton, a great source of information

Now the tale has been picked up Stafford-movie company Grand Independent who want to turn it into a £4million film. by Marion Brennan

Mr Pekar, 45, said: "It's a fantas-

Mr Pekar, 45, said: "It's a fantastic feeling, no words can describe it. My dad would be completely over the moon because he started writing the story when I was 10. Now I have finished it for him."

When the Revolution started on October 23, Nandor Pekar was primed for action. Nandor was based just outside Budapest with a group of student rebels whose job was to ambush Russian tanks heading for the capital. They petrol-bombed the vehicles and, where possible, stole their weapons.

In less than a week the Russians had been beaten back and a new moderate Prime Minister had taken office, restoring democracy and freedom of speech. But within days he announced that Hungary was going to leave the Warsaw Pact, a move that saw 1,000 Russian tanks roll into Budapest on

An estimated 30,000 people were killed and around 200,000 fled to

killed and around 200,000 fled to the west. Nandor, devastated by their failure to secure victory, was among the last to leave.

The title of his son's book, Last Train To Budapest, was inspired by a conversation they had on a trip back to Hungary years later, when Richard was around 10.

Research was on trips to Hungary over years and a source of information was the Polish Club in Wolverhampton as the Hungarian Community Association of Staffordshire is also based there. The book, published in 2006, has

The book, published in 2006, has already been filmed when students at Staffordshire University's Staf-ford campus made a short movie. The 35-minute film, premiered at the university in 2010.The new film will be premiered in London and New York.



Nandor Pekar in England in 1957

## Trade Prices to the Pu



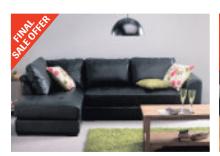
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## Water way to breathe life into tourist boat



nts working on the restoration of the 70ft Blackcountryman narrow boat at The Bonded Warehouse dry dock

NARROWBOAT which showcases the West Midlands waterways to tourists has been on dry land for a

E10,000 revamp.

But now the 70ft boat is returning to the water ahead of a new season of trips following the five-

season of trips following the live-week restoration project.

The Blackcountryman takes hun-dreds of passengers on pleasure cruises operated by Stourbridge Nav-igation Trust.

It is moored at the Stourbridge Town Arm canal basin next to the ca-

tion of the 70ft Blackcountryman narrow be nalside attraction, the Bonded Warehouse, off Canal Street, Stourbridge. But after a season of toil up and down the waterways, it was time to take the boat into the trust's dry dock in early January for running repairs. The fibre glass roof had been cracked having been exposed to the elements over the years and needed a revamp. Rotten wood has been removed from the roof hatches and replaced, and improvements to the boat's disabled access have been made. There has also been a paint job to spruce up the outside which will be touched up once the boat is back in the water.

Ashwood-based J H Trimmings have

produced new fixtures for the boat during the repair work overseen by dock manager Andy Downing.

The boat made 55 trips last year and Bonded Warehouse manager Colin Clements says they expect more this coming season. It acts as a regular fundraiser to help the navigation trust plough money into the maintenance of the canalside attraction and waterways.

Mr Clement said: "It was in need of a revamp and some running repairs so it was a good time for these to be done. The money we spend on the boat is as much an investment in the area because it is a part of the community.

cause it is a part of the community.



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#### **NEWS**

## More homes need to be built

A POPULATION boom is pushing the West Midlands' housing market towards breaking point, according to a new report.

Housebuilding is failing to keep pace with a population surge in the region, while wages continue to lag behind housing costs, says the National Housing Federation. The report Home Truths 2014: West Midlands warns that less than half of the homes needed just to house new households in the region are currently being built.

The federation is calling for a major building programme of affordable housing. Overall the region built the third lowest number of new homes in England over the past year.

The federation says rents are rising even faster than house prices with Birmingham up to an average of £565 per week and Dudley at £516.

## Bid to stop bikers from tearing around old quarry

RIDERS are tearing around a disused quarry in Kinver on off-road bikes. prompting a fresh call for action for police to tackle anti-social behaviour near the village.

People living in Kinver have long com-

plained about youths using off-road bikes in the Biffa quarry site off the A449.
Residents say the illegal riding causes alarm, nuisance and a danger. Now Biffa, site owners Marsh Estates, council officers, police and village representatives are to discuss the problem.

Sarah Davison, Staffordshire Police spokes-woman, said: "We are aware of the concerns from residents in the Kinver and Stourton areas regarding off-road bikes using the Biffa quarry site off the A449 after receiving numerous calls over the last year

#### **Patrols**

"We have been carrying out regular proactive patrols of the area and will be meeting with other agencies over the issues in coming weeks."
Pc Wayne Green will be hosting the meeting, which will see two village residents attend.
Mrs Davison said: "The aim of the meeting is

lem. After the meeting Pc Green will be updating members of the local community about the plans and will also update residents using the Neighbourhood Watch system.

Neighbourhood Watch system.
"We take reports of anti-social behaviour of
this nature seriously and we encourage residents
to report incidents, where possible providing
registration plates of the vehicles involved."

Bob Clark, co-ordinator of the village's Neighbourhood Watch, said: "We have raised the issue

in the past but it seems the police are finally taking note and trying to do something about it."

## County spend to mend holes

THOUSANDS of potholes have opened up after the region's roads took another winter battering.

Councils are increasing the number of

Councils are increasing the full moles of road repairs they are carrying out as reports of problems from motorists continue to rise. Worcester County Council has earmarked £700,000 for repairs.

The state of the roads in the area has worsened following the record levels of rainfall since the start of 2014.

since the start of 2014.
But in Dudley borough the number of reported potholes is around the same, or even less, than last year. Dudley transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed explained there was a similar number to last year in the borough. He said: "We will continue to work as efficiently as possible as we undertake our ongoing programme of repair work to potholes across the borough."

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## Players in tale of a big bad mouse



The Community Players rehearse for next play Big Bad Mouse

IT is the story of a downtrodden office worker who becomes a 'hero' after being accused of being a villain. In their 51st year, The Community Players in Brier

ley Hill are preparing to take the hilarious farce Big Bad Mouse to the stage next month.

Mouse to the stage next month.

The 1960s play, written by Phillip King and Falkland
Carey, follows the curious fortunes of Mr Bloome, a worker
in the orders office of Chunkbix Ltd, who one day is accused of chasing a young female across the common. To the amazement of the domineering Mr Price-Hargraves, the reprehensible conduct makes him the centre of attention for every woman and girl in the office, including chairman Lady Chesaneake

Big Bad Mouse will be performed at the Oakfield Centre, Brettell Lane, at 7.30pm from Wednesday, March 5, to Saturday, March 8.

Tickets cost £7, £5 concessions. To book call (01384)

## **Jobs and education** fair hosted by MP

A FURTHER education and apprenticeships fair has been organised by Margot James, MP for Stourbridge, at the Glasshouse Arts Centre on Friday, March 7, from 5pm. It aims to give students from Year 7 to Year 13, and their parents, the opportunity to network with a wide range of national and local organisations. There will also be a chance to attend a series of workshops on topics such as learning a trade. Firms will include Barclays, Aston Martin, Tesco, Jaguar Land Rover, TeachFirst, the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force, Dudley Group of Hospitals, McDonald's, and HSBC.

Ms James said: "I am delighted to be able to host this event for a second time, where we will again see major na-

Ms James said: I am dengined to be able to host this event for a second time, where we will again see major national and local companies from a wide range of sectors engaging with young people in Stourbridge about their options." For more information email margot.james.mp@parliament.uk or call 01384 370 574.

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## **MP in call** for equal number of

number of gipsy and traveller sites within his

number of gipsy and traveller sites within his constituency – and the Government has said it is now reviewing its policy.

South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson, whose constituency includes Kinver, Enville and Bobbington, called on the Department for Communities and Local Government to explain what it is doing to ensure pitches are being provided more evening provided more even.

We Lewis also confirmed with the constitution of the confirmed warrows neighbouring.

across neighbouring areas.

He also asked the department what action it is taking to gain a more accurate representation of gipsy and traveller numbers in the distaint

#### Guidance

Responding to Mr Williamson, Brandon Lewis MP, the department's Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, said: "We are currently reviewing the associated practice guidance on traveller site provision." He explained: "The Localism Act 2011 introduced a duty to co-operate, and we

a duty to co-operate, and we would encourage local au-thorities to work constructively with their neighbours on all aspects of planning."

Mr Lewis also confirmed the Department's inten-tion to consider the case for changes to the planning definition of travellers to refer only to those who 'ac-tually travel and have a mo-bile or transitory lifestyle'.

The Department says it is open to representations on these matters and will launch a consultation in due course.

Mr Williamson said he was 'delighted' that the Government was taking ac-

He added: "All we are asking for is that the pro-vision of gipsy and traveller pitches is balanced across all local areas and that any an local areas and that any applications are dealt with equitably."

## Landlady in pledge to save village pub



Licensee Helena Bant at The Greyhound pub which may shut under redevelopment plans

THE landlady of an 18th century village pub which may be closed down for conversion into homes under redevel-opment plans has vowed to campaign to save her 'thriving' business.

Regulars have started a petition against a brewery's pro-posal to transform The Greyhound Inn, in Swindon, near Dudley, and neighbouring land into new homes.

Pub boss Helena Bant, aged 48, took over the Grey-hound, which also has a Thai restaurant, in October having previously worked as the bar manager under previous operators. She says the family-run pub has been transformed in recent months and now employs four bar staff and six in the restaurant.

Customers are gathering support to keep the pub, in Wombourne Road, open and plan to object to the scheme creating 22 apartments and houses.

Pub group Marston's has said it has agreed to the sell the pub subject to planning permission being granted.

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## **Schoolboy wheels into** action in gran's memory

IN the words of her 14-year-old grandson, Frances Male was 'an amazing woman' and he credits her with making him the person he is today. It was love for his gran that spurred Pensnett schoolboy Alex

Young into action to cycle 36 miles in her memory with his father to raise money for the hospice where her life ended nearly six weeks

her life ends ago.

Alex, who lives with his parents, David and Joanne, and sister Kathryn, 17, in Derwent Close, Pensnett, used to love making cakes with his gran, who died after a two-year battle against cancer, aged 70.

"She was an amazing woman who meant the world to me," said Alex, a

was an amazing woman who meant the world to me," said Alex, a pupil at Crestwood School, Kingswin-ford.

"I can't believe she lasted as long as she did but it happened so fast towards the end and it was very upsetting.

#### Illness

"I only lived two minutes down the road from her and often popped in to

road from her than see her.

"I wouldn't be the person I am today if not for nan and grandad.

"She was so brave in facing her."

illness. I'm glad I knew her."

Alex added: "She used to be a fantastic cake maker and I liked to help her make wedding cakes when I was

younger."
Mrs Male, a former cleaner at St
Mark's Primary School, Pensnett,
lived with her husband, Roger Male,

aged 71, in Comber Drive, Pensnett.
Following her death at Mary Stevens Hospice, Stourbridge, on January 17, Alex suggested to his father that they cycle along the canal network from Pensnett to Stourport and back in her memory. in her memory.



David Young, aged 48, who works as a printer in Wednesfield, accompanied him on the recent ride, which has raised at least £200 for the Mary Stevens Hospice.

And it was tough-going, as they battled along rain and mud-soaked tow paths in a journey that should have taken about five hours but ended up leating for eight hours.

lasting for eight hours.

Mr Young said: "We tried to do the same ride last summer but I fell off my bike after about five miles and cut myself to ribbons on the gravel of the tow path.

"Then Alex had a puncture and we



'Amazing woman' — Alex's inspira-tonal grandmother Frances Male

had to push the bikes the last two miles to Stourport, where my wife picked us up."

#### Hospice

Mr Young added: "My mother-in-law's death affected him so much he suggested that we complete the ride this time and raise money for the hos-

pice."

Alex said: "The hospice staff were with my nan constantly and they were always there when she needed something - so I thought that would be a good eause."

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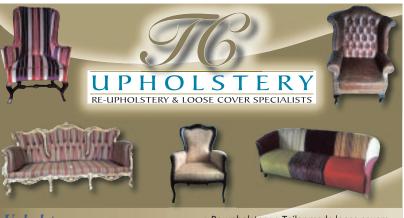
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## **Keeping faith with a** career dedicated to sport



Dudley PE teacher and goalkeeping coach Bernard Moseley, aged 23, shows a safe pair of hands

IT'S every young footballer's dream - a professional contract at your local club. But when most fail to make the grade, few will manage to stay in the game and fewer

stay in the game and rewer will make money out of it.

Bernard Moseley has made up for the disappointment of failing to play professionally by successfully becoming a goalkeeping coach. The 23-year-old from Dudley is quickly building up a reputation after passing his UEFA B Coalkeeping Licence at an early age.

Alongside him on the course was for-

mer Wolves goalkeeper Matt Murray and Derby County coach Eric Steele. The former Crestwood School head boy is in his first year as a PE teacher at Holly Hall Academy and is also teaching up-and-coming goal-keepers including Birmingham Ladies and England Under-17s player Sian Thomas.

#### **Passionate**

He said: "I'm working so much that I'm usually leaving for work at 6am and coming back home at midnight but it is fun. While I might not have made it playing, I have still managed

to find a living out of the sport I'm so passionate about."

or mid a living out of the sport. It is passionate about."

Mr Moseley missed out on a profootball career following his release from Shrewsbury Town after spells at Wolves, West Bromwich Albion and Birmingham City.

He said: "I wasn't the massive goal-keeper they were looking for. It was disappointing not to make it but I was determined to carry on in the sport.

Mr Moseley passed his UEFA coaching badge in May.

He was offered a job at Walsall Football Club's Academy but decided to go into teaching instead while also holding private training sessions.

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## Faggots find gourmet favour

AFTER years of derision by the gourmet fraternity, it seems that the great Black Country faggot has finally made it into polities society after becoming a favourite with upmarket supermarket chain Waitrose.

The food store, often seen as a by-word for middle class respectability, has been so impressed with the sale of its pork faggots that it has decided to expand its range by introducing a beef version. But the announcement has been met by a sceptical response from top Black Country chef Richard James, who is co-author of the Good Faggot Guide.

"They might be very nice, but they are not faggots if they are made from beef," he said.

said.
"I would be very interested to give them a try, and see what they are like, but if they are made from beef they are not a tradi-

## Gambler to pay price for lies over car-jacking a

A GAMBLER who lost £250 at a casino hours after pocketing the cash from a car sale told police he had been violently robbed by the buyers in a bid to claw back his losses.

Dawid Dytlow, 22, sold his Honda Accord to two men who responded to an online advert, but after losing the proceeds on fruit machines he dialled 999 to claim he had been car-jacked on a test drive.

The car was circulated as wanted on national police computers and, when it triggered Auto-

eras near Nuneaton, the innocent buyers were arrested on suspicion of robbery.

Dytlow, from Green Park Road, Dudley, said he had been attacked by the 'car-jackers' and left with facial cuts and bruises. But it later emerged the injuries had actually been inflicted during an argument sparked by news of his wasteful casino trip. The suspects were freed without charge and CCTV from Dudley Casino, where Dytlow was a combine should him applied to the time be a combined to the complex of the time by member showed him gambling at the time he claimed the robbers had struck.
Dytlow admitted making up the story in a bid to make an insurance claim. He was jailed for

course of justice.

Detective Constable Darren Reeves, from Detective Constable Darren Reeves, from Dudley CID, said: "Dytlow may have thought this was a 'white lie' that would result in a ticking off should the plan be uncovered but this was a serious case of trying to pervert the course of justice that wasted countless police hours and resulted in the arrest of innocent men.

"Dutlow signed a statement working his con-

"Dytlow signed a statement swearing his version of events was an honest, accurate version but it couldn't have been further from the truth.
"He's now paying a high price for those lies."

## Fire chiefs put pressure on tax

budgets. West Midlands Fire Service charges a pre cept as part of council tax to raise cash to pay for fire and rescue services. Members of West Midlands Fire Authority agreed to levy an in-crease amounting to 1.99 per cent, which is the maximum increase allowed without call-

the maximum increase allowed without calling a referendum.
Finance chiefs have laid bare tough budget forecasts, warning the authority faces being £12 million in deficit by 2017/18.
But opposition councillors demanded members rethink plans to hit hard-pressed residents with hikes on their bills.
A majority of 15 to six voted in favour of the increase at the fire authority meeting last week



## Illicit romance in a Brief Encounter



Rebecca Clee and Tony Stamp in Brief Encounter

THE classic British romance Brief Encounter is being staged by Dudley Little Theatre next month.
Adapted for the stage by Emma Rice from Noel Coward's screenplay for the 1945 film starring Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard, it will be performed at Netherton Arts Centre from March 12 to 15 at 7.30pm.

#### **Affair**

It tells of the love affair between a married woman and a doctor in 1930s suburbia with Rebecca Clee and Tony Stamp as the two leads.

Stamp as the two leads.

"The haunting love story features housewife Laura Jesson and Dr Alec Harvey and includes the characters that provide the backdrop to their story," said the theatre group's Christine Ridgeway. "It explores the thrill, pain and tenderness of an illicit affair as the principals struggle against the conventions of suburban life in the late 1930s."

Tickets cost £7 (£6 concessions) and are available from Dudley Council Plus on (01384) 812812, from Chris on (01384) 82283, mobile 07582 318017 or via the website www.dudleylittletheatre.org.

## **Hundreds attend** model rail club day

FAMILIES from across the Black Country visited Warley Model Railway Club's open day at their headquarters in Pearsall Drive, Oldbury, along with model lovers from as far away as Leicester and Peterborough. Around 260 people turned out for the first of this year's

Around 260 people turned out for the first of this year's twice-annual open days, which give the opportunity to see what happens at one of the most famous model railway clubs in the country.

Twelve layouts were on display, with a range of gauge sizes. Club members were also on hand to give model-making demonstrations. The event also featured a new layout based on the popular children's television character Peppa Pig, which was a favourite with the youngest visitors.

The next open day will take place in May, and their huge annual event at the NEC, attended by hundreds of model fans from around the country, will this year be on November 22 and 23. For details visit www.warley-mrc.org.uk.

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#### **REVIEWS**

## Charming with a touch of common

Some Girl I Used To Know, Grand STAR of stage and screen, cheeky Essex chick Denise Van Outen, has unique appeal – guys fancy her and girls relate to her, so it is no surprise that her one woman show, Some Girl I Used to Know, has received rave reviews and standing ovations on its 2014 tour so far.

And last week it was our turn to enjoy her very special brand of charm

enjoy her very special brand of charm with just a touch of common, as she opened at the Wolverhampton Grand

Theatre for a three-night run which ended on Saturday.

Don't get me wrong, Tell Me on a Sunday it ain't, but this snapshot into the life of a successful business woman, Stephanie, who takes a nostalic and amusing, but also often painful trip down memory lane, is just as entertaining in its own way.

It follows high-flying wife and career girl Stephanie Canworth on a musical journey down memory lane.

Stephanie has it all — a successful

career, supportive husband and she's a media darling. But a Facebook poke from a former love and the memories come flooding back

come flooding back It's a mixture of girly gags, slightly smutty, but very real comedy and life experiences, with hits of the 80s and 90s woven into the story for good

It was a must see for Denise devotees and those who simply want to sit back, relax and be entertained.

ALISON NORTON

### Rioja and rhumba

Gipsy Kings, Civic Hall
THE relentless propulsion
of six acoustic guitars and
the passionate full-throated vocals of Nicolas Reyes
brought the warmth of the
Mediterranean to a cold
night in Wolverhampton
when The Gipsy Kings performed at the Civic Hall.
The combination of their

when The Gipsy Kings performed at the Civic Hall.

The combination of their irresistible 'rumba flamenca' style and possibly a few glasses of Rioja meant a troupe of middle-aged ladies were up and dancing in the aisles by the third number as the portly band of French-Spanish gipsy musicians hit their stride.

Dialogue with the audience was restricted to a gracias, merci and the occasional thank you, until Nicolas Reyes – perhaps touched by the warm applause for his acrobatic, muezzin-like vocals - told us he loved us.

The Grammy-award winners saved the best known numbers for last but Bamboleo instead of being greeted by dancing was met by an audience more intent on recording the finale on their camera phones. But no one could resist joining in with the encore, Volare.

in with the encore, Volare.

LEON BURAKOWSKI



## Joker is wild as the ballet returns

Birmingham Royal
Ballet, Hippodrome
DAVID Bintley's company
kicked off their first home
season of 2014 with a triple
bill. Card Game, choreography by John Cranko to
music by Stravinsky, was
a ballet in three deals with
Jamie Bond as the mischievous Joker in the pack.
Hollywood actress Betty
Grable had the million dollar legs but that should
apply to Celine Gittens. The
Trinidad-born ballerina
high-kicked to heaven with

high-kicked to heaven with her perfect pins in the jazzy

Slaughter on Tenth Avenue, by George Balanchine to music by Richard Rodgers. She was perfectly matched with Tyrone Singleton's muscular Hoofer in this blend of ballet and tap. Finally came the amusing and colourful Elite Synco-

and colourful Ente Synco-pations, choreographed by Kennth MacMillan to rag-time music. The comic Alas-kan Rag, featuring Yvette Knight and James Barton, was a real audience-pleaser. This week BRB present

The Prince of the Pagodas.

LEON BURAKOWSKI

### Masters of their crafts

McCusker, McGoldrick
and Doyle
MAC Birmingham
HAVE you heard the one
about the Scotsman, the
Englishman and the Irishman . . . they got together
and created some glorious
Celtic/ folk music.
Never ones to short

Celtic/folk music.

Never ones to short change, John McCusker mostly on fiddle, Michael McGoldrick on flute, whistle and uillean pipes and John Doyle on a range of guitars and vocals opened with an instrumental which was almost 10 minutes long.

Individually the three musicians, who are regulars with the Transatlantic Sessions, are masters of their craft but together they produce a blend of sound which is magical, evocative and en-

is magical, evocative and en-compasses everything which is good with folk music.

compasses everything which is good with folk music.
With a mixture of reels, jigs and sea shanties they showed their versatility and skills with tracks such as Leaving Uist, Rory Campbell's Song, Billy's Reel and the poignant SS Arabic about one of Doyle's ancestors who was inadvertently caught up in a U-Boat attack during World War One.

DANNY FARRAGHER



#### St George's Day charity concert

TICKETS are on sale for a concert marking St George's Day at Birming-ham's Symphony Hall on

senge's Day at Billings ham's Symphony Hall on April 19.

The event is organised by the Birmingham St George's Day Association. Comedians Don Maclean and Malcom Stent are on the bill with a mystery guest. Also performing will be Birmingham Community Gospel Choir, Sovereign Brass, the group Quill, a local choir and school children. Money raised will go to Troop Aid.

The concert takes place between 6pm and 9pm.

The concert takes place between 6pm and 9pm. Tickets are priced between £5 and £18.

Tickets can be bought at Birmingham Town Hall or Symphony Hall box office, by calling 0121 345 0603 or by visiting the www.thsh. co.uk website.

#### Neds top bill at indie all-dayer

EXPECT the return of the mosh pit, spilt pints and crowd surfing when Black Country rock leg-ends Ned's Atomic Dustbin

ends Ned's Atomic Dustbin top the bill at the Gigan-tic Classic Indie All-Dayer at Manchester Academy on Bank Holiday Monday, May 24. Also on the bill will be one of the late John Peel's favourite bands The Wed-ding Present, Manches-ter's own The Chameleons, Yorshire's Cud, and Irish Yorshire's Cud, and Irish outfits The Sultans of Ping and The Frank And Wal-

Tickets for the 10-hour party cost £25. See www. manchesteracademy.net for further information.

## A conflict between church and science that still resonates

## Fame, it's gonna live forever

LEGWARMERS, jumps and poignant moments at the piano—it can only mean Fame.

Back in 1980 British di-

rector Alan Parker's movie rector Alan Parker's movie about the tribulations and triumphs of young hopeful students at New York High School of Performing Arts was a surprise hit, spawning a hit TV series and a 2009 movie remake.

#### Musical

Musical

It also led to Fame The Musical, an international theatre hit which had a West End run and toured the UK, featuring the famous title song and such numbers as Hard Work, Let's Play A Love Scene and Think Of Meryl Streep.

The latest UK touring revival brings matters up to date by setting the story in 2014 when it arrives at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on Monday for a six-day run — so expect

six-day run — so expect lots of dynamic dancing but fewer dodgy perms.



A scene from the new version of Fame The Musical, being staged in Wolverhampton

ence versus the church, a conflict down the ages that still resonates today is the subject of Birmingham Rep artistic director's new staging of A Life Of Galileo.

This is a rapid revival of her own acclaimed produc-tion, translated by Mark Ravenhill from the work by Marxist German playwright Bertolt Brecht. It won

praise when staged by the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford and will again feature Ian McDiarmid in the ti-

Ian McDarmid in the ti-tle role.

It looks at the pioneering
Italian scientist's clash with
the Roman Catholic Church
in the early 17th Century
over his assertion that the Earth orbits the Sun

Earth orbits the Sun.
The play, staged at The
Rep from tomorrow night
to March 8, is presented
as part of a Brecht season
at the Centenary Square

at the Centenary Square venue.

The anarchic world of children's TV in the past (think Tiswas and Going Live) is the inspiration for Told By An Idiot's Never Try This At Home at The Rep's Studio from tonight to March 15.

to March 15.
At the theatre's third space, The Door, London Soho Theatre's darkly comic romance Blink, by Phil Porter, is being staged from Monday to Wednesday.
Before Fame The Musical leaps onto the stage, Wol-

### a tale of two cellos "THEY say the cello is the

Concert will be

"THEY say the cello is the closest instrument to the human voice. With 'A Tale of Two Cellos' we wanted to sing together in a universal language so that we could share this beautiful music, which spans nearly five hundred years, with everyone." So say husband and wife cello duo Julian and Jiaxin Lloyd Webber of their latest album for classical label Naxos.

The famous cellists will be performing together at

The famous cellists will be performing together at Cannock's Prince of Wales Theatre on Thursday, March 13, as part of a UK tour. There will be premiere duets for two cellos with piano as well as music by Vivaldi, Bach, Rachmaninov and Saint-Saëns.

The concert is at 7.30pm and tickets cost £18. Call 01543 578762 or visit www. wlct.org/cannock/theatre/

#### Award-winning folk duo at cafe

lan McDiarmid as Galileo verhampton Grand hosts English Touring Theatre's passionate Eternal Love, the story of the 12th century romance between philosopher and student, Abelard and Heloise, through to Saturday. The lovers are played by real-life couple David Sturzaker and Jo Herbert. Rod Stewart musical Tonight's The Night is at the New Alexandra Theatre until Saturday. The Birmingham venue then hosts 1700s Scottish adventure Kidnapped on Monday night and Tuesday afternoon. Ian McDiarmid as Galileo

folk duo at cafe
WINNERS of the best duo
at this year's Radio2 Folk
Awards, Phillip Henry and
Hannah Martin, are heading to Birmingham.
They will be coming fresh
from their award-winning
appearance at the Royal
Albert Hall to play at the
Kitchen Garden Cafe in
Kings Heath on March 30
at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8
in advance or £10 on the
door. The West Country
pair have made a fantastic
leap considering that not so
long ago they were found
by Steve Knightley of
Show of Hands, busking on
Sidmouth seafront as part
of the town's folk festival.
Visit www.kitchengarden
cafe.co.uk.



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#### SATURDAY'S TV 1.03.14

#### CHOICE



Will.i.am

BBC1, 7pm The blind auditions are complete and the coaches have chosen 12 acts each Now begins the process of Now begins the process of whittling them down by half for the live shows – and that means the return of the battle rounds. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes host as the coaches are joined by four advisers – Scissor Sisters frontman Scissor Sisters frontman
Jake Shears, singer Katy B,
award-winning rapper Tinie
Tempah and Black Eyed
Peas founder Dante
Santiago – who give the

acts the benefit of their

experience, before pitting them against each other in head-to-head musical

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 James Martin; Home Comforts. 12.00 Football Focus. 12.45 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 1.15 Cycling. 2.45 Bargain Hunt. (R) 3.30 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.00 Final Score. 5.10 Reliex. 5.55 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 6.15 Pointless Celebrities and Eddle "The Eagle" Edwards take part in the unorthodox general knowledge quiz. Last in the series. (R) 7.00 The Voice UK. The battle rounds begin as the coaches enlist four advisers—Jake

- The Voice UK. The battle rounds begin as the coaches enlist four advisers Jake Shears, Katy B, Tinie Tempah and Dante Santiago and pit their acts against each other in the sing-offs.

  The National Lottery Live.
  Gaby Roslin reveals the results of the Lotto and the Thunderball.
- 9.10
- Casualty. Robyn injures herself after confronting an intruder in her home, and Lily shows her softer side while treating a heavily pregnant woman in severe

pain.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day, Gary
Lineker presents highlights
of the latest Premier League
ashes, which included
Finance Cottage; National Lottery
Update.

11.45 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two.

1.05 Weatherview. 1.10 BBC New

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. 6.15 Film:
Julies Verne's Rocket to the Moon
(1967) 8.10 Life on Earth. (R) 9.05
Life on Earth. (R) 10.00 Andrew
Marr's The Making of Modern
Britain. (R) 11.00 Fred Dibnah's
Made in Britain. (R) 11.30 Great
British Rallway Journeys. (R)
Made in Britain. (R) 11.30 Great
British Rallway Journeys.
Comforts. 12.30 Talking Pictures.
1.10 Film: The Lady Vanishes.
1.10 Film: The Lady Vanishes.
1.10 Film: The Lady Vanishes.
1.15 Film: The Lady Vanishes.
1.16 Film: The Lady Vanishes.
1.17 Book Book Boar. (R) 5.15
1.18 Film: The Lady Vanishes.
1.19 Silm: The Lady Vanishes.
1.19 Silm: The Lady Vanishes.
1.10 Film: The Lady Vanishes.
1.10 Film: The Lady Vanishes.
1.11 Book Book Boar. (R) 5.15
1.12 Book Book Boar. (R) 5.15
1.13 Dad's Army. Jones finds himself cast adrift. (R)
1.14 The Perfect Morecambe &

- 7.45 The Perfect Morecambe & Wise. A selection of sketches featuring the duo.
- sketches featuring the duo.

  8.15 Darcey's Ballerina
  Heroines. Darcey Bussell
  journeys from 18th-century
  France to 1950s America to
  explore the changing role of
  the ballerina and the
  challenges her predecessors
- January Common Production of the Management of t
- Musical comedy, starring Matthew Broderick and Nathan Lane.

12.35 Film: Lady Caroline Lamb. (1972) 2.35 This Is BBC Two.

5.00 CiTV- Dino Dan. 6.10 Dino Dan. (R) 6.25 Matt Hatter Chronicles, (R) 6.45 Canimals. (R) 6.55 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.10 Canimals. (R) 7.20 Sooty. (R) 7.30 Scrambled! 9.25 Dinner Date. (R) 10.20 Murder. She Wrote. (R) 11.5 Th Coroolide Hunter 11.25 The Crocodide Hunter 11.25 The Crocodion Hunter (R) 3.15 Film: Tea with Mussolini. (1999) 5.35 Regional Programme: Weather.5.45 TIV News; Weather. 6.00 You Weather Sheen Framedil Best

- Weather.5. 45 ITV News; Weather.
  6.00 You've Been Framed! Best of the Best. Classic clips and Harry Hill's most surreal comments inspired by viewers' home videos, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful accidents.
- accidents.

  7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night
  Takeaway. The Geordie duo
  target chef Gordon Ramsay
  with their latest stunt, Little
  Ant and Dec meet Mr
  Selfridge star Jeremy Piven
  and comedienne Sarah
  Millican is the guest
  announcer.
- announcer. **The Cube.** New series. Gym instructor Chris and student Sophie hope to beat the Cube and take home the £250,000 jackpot.
- The Jonathan Ross Show.
  The host chats to The host chats to supermodel Claudia Schiffer, comedian Dara O Briain, Sex and the City actress Kristin Davis and rapper-turned-actor Ice Cube.

  10.20 ITV News; Weather.
  10.35 Film: Fast & Furious. (2009)
- 12.35 Jackpot247. 3.00 In Plain Sight. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen.

#### **CHANNEL 4**

CHANNEL 35 The Grid.
7.80 Trans World Sport. 7.55
Paratympic Winter Games — The
Countdown. (R) 8.00 The Morning
Line. 9.00 Everybody Loves
Raymond. (R) 9.30 Everybody
Loves Raymond. (R) 10.00 Frasier.
(R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R)
11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R)
11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R)
11.20 How I Met Your Mother.
12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 1.00 The
Simpsons. (R) 1.30 Channel 4
Racing. 4.10 Come Dine with Me. (R)
5.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40
Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40
Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.10 Come Dine with Me.

- Come Dine with Me. (R)
  6.10 Come Dine with Me.
  Accountant Tonl Shukla
  hosts the final dinner party in
  Birmingham. (R)
  6.40 Channel 4 News.
  7.05 The Restoration Man.
  Transforming a church in the
  Devon fishing port of
- 8.00 The Storms That Stole
  Christmas. The stories of
  those who bore the brunt of
  the bad weather over
  Christmas 2013 and the
- Christmas 2013 and the surrounding period, featuring amateur footage, eyewitness testimony and expert commentary. (R) Hostages. Ellen must decide whether to save Duncan's life and sets out to track down home in a misguided attempt to help Morgan.
- to help Morgañ.

  10.00 Film: The Lincoln Lawyer.
  (2011) Premiere. Legal
  thriller, starring Matthew
  McConaughey.

  12.15 Film: A History of Violence.
  (2005) 2.00 Boss. 3.05 Mesh:
  Minute. (R). 4.05 Kirstles
  Handmade Treasures. (R)

#### **CHANNEL 5**

6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 Film: Jetsons: The Movie. (1990) JOSEPHINISTRACE 3.39 FIIII.
JUSTOSIT. THE MOVIE. (1930)
Blanc. 11.25 Films. Shuart Little 3.
Call of the Wild. (2005). Ghidren's animated adventure sequel, with the voice of Michael J Fox. 12.55
Films. Getting Even with Dad. (1934) Family cornedy, starring Macaulay Culkin and Ted Danson.
Macaulay Culkin and Ted Danson. (1975) Crime drama, with Peter Falk. 4.35 Films. Columbo: Candidate for Crime. (1973)
Detective drama, starring Peter Falk.

Detective drama, starring Peter Falk.

6.30 The NCIS Movie: Payback. Feature-length episode. The agents try to locate a serial killer, but their investigation leads to a surprising revelation. Meanwhile, research of the surprising revelation. Meanwhile, revelation. Meanwhile, which is the surprising revelation. Meanwhile, which is the surprising revelation. Meanwhile, which is the surprising and because of the super middleweight bout at the City Academy in Bristol.

11.10 Film: Pistol Whipped.

Bristol. Clay Academy in Bristol. Pilm: Pistol Whipped. (2008) A former cop becomes a hitman to clear his debts, but hegins to suspect his employer is suspect his employer is suspect his employer. Support Steven Seagal and Lance Henriksen. Edited for language.

language:
1.05 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. 3.05 Benidorm ER. (R) 4.00 Wildlie SOS. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 May Expose Show. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.05 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.20 Language Valley Show. (R) 5.40 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.25 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.25 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.26 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.26 Hana's Helpline. (R)

Listings supplied by Press Associati

#### **DIGITAL**

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D 7.25 Doctor Who 8.10 Top Gear **9.10 Film**: I Am Nun 2011) **10.50** Family Guy

7.00 Great Barrier Reef 8.00 Lost Kingdoms of South America 9.00 Salamander 10.35 What's Going On? The Life and Death of Marvin Gaye 11.35 Roll Over Beethoven – The Chess Records Saga

17V2
2.50 Film: Kangaroo Jack (2003)
4.40 Film: Step Up (2006) 6.55
Film: Ocean's Thirteen (2007) 9.20
Film: Forgetting Sarah Marshall
(2008) 11.30 Film: The Sweetest
Thing (2002)

Rosemary & Thyme 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Endeavour. Inspec Morse prequel, starring Shaun Evans. 11.00 A Touch of Frost ITV4

## 17V4 2.40 Film: The Manchurian Candidate (1962) 5.15 Film: Nevada Smith (1966) 7.55 Hornblower. The seafaring hero's resourcefulness turns the tide of a battle. 10.00 Film: Schindler's List (1993)

E4
4.00 Rude(ish) Tube 5.00 The Big
Bang Theory: Access All Areas 5.30
The Big Bang Theory 6.30 The Big
Bang Theory: It All Started with a
Big Bang 7.00 How I Met Your
Mother 8.00 The Tomorrow People
9.00 Film: Trading Places (1983)
11.20 Rude Tube: Viral Ads

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Film4
3.15 Imagine That (2009) 5.20 The Phantom (1996) 7.15 Bedazzled (2000) Fantasy comedy remake, starring Brendan Fraser. 9.00 The Taking of Pelham 123 (2009) 11.05 28 Days Later (2002)

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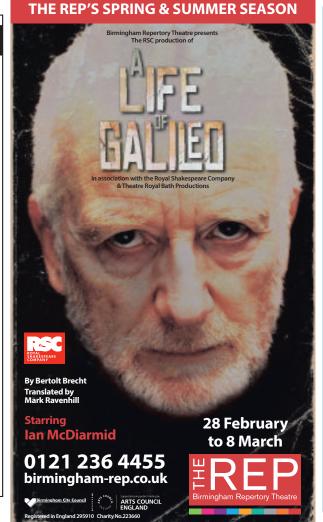
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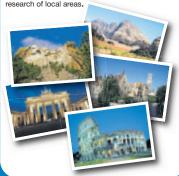


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#### **SUNDAY'S TV** 2.03.14

#### CHOICE



**Kelly Hoppen** 

Dragons' Den BBC2, 9pm It's always fun to play along while watching telly, especially if you're playing "guess Peter Jones' next "guess Peter Jones' next
pun" on Dragons' Den.
Here, he and fellow
Dragons Duncan
Bannatyne, Deborah
Meaden, Kelly Hoppen and Piers Linney meet two women with an alpaca-based knitwear company, based knitwear company, but will Peter accuse them of 'spinning a yarn', or ask them to get down to the 'knitty gritty' of their proposal? Among the other would-be entrepreneurs is the director of a Londonbased design company with a new take on the sticky

6.00 Breakfast, 7.40 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Sunday Politics, 12.15 MorTD2 Extra. 1.00 BBC News: Weather, 1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.15 The Indian Doctor. (R) 3.00 Hz. (R) 4.10 Decision of the MorTD2 Extra. 10.00 BBC News: Weather, 1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.15 Hz. (R) 1.15 Hz.

6.05 BBC News; Regional News; Weather

6.30 Blandings. Clarence must prevent his brother from publishing his scandalous mamoire.

publishing his scandalous memoirs.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker explores Elmley Marshes on the Isle of Sheppey off the coast of Kent. Ellie Harrison in Isle of Sheppey off the coast of Kent. Ellie Harrison in Isle of Sheppey off the coast of Kent. Ellie Harrison in Isle of Shellon is in the Willishire countryside. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Call the Midwife. A new mum and her baby go missing, Jenny begins to see cracks in the establishment Chummy discovers her mother has walked out on her father.

9.00 The Musketeers. The swordsmen help a young mother rescue her kidnapped baby son, while the king is reluctantly reunited with his reluctantly reunited with his

vavy son, while the king is reluctantly reunited with his scheming mother Marie de Medici.

10.00 BBC News; Weather. 10.25 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Swansea City v Crystal Palace.

11.30 The League Cup Show.

ivianchester City v Sunderland. 12.10 Weatherview. 12.15 BBC News

BBC2
6.00 This is BBC Two. 6.10 Film:
School for Scoundrels. (1960) 7.40
Monty Don's Italian Gardens. (R)
8.40 Countryfile. (R) 9.40 Saturday
Kitchen Besf Bites. 11.10 James
Martin: Home Comforts. (R) 11.55
Michel Roux's Service. (R) 12.55
Michel Roux's Service. (

Dragons' Den. A London-based entrepreneur pitche based entrepreneur pitches a new take on the sticky note, and two women bring a pair of alpacas as they try to gain funds for their knitwear business. Last in the series.

10.00 Mock the Week Looks Back at Science and Technology. Another themed selection from the show's archives. (R)

archives. (R)

1.30 Line of Duty. Denton reveals
a high-ranking officer has a
motive for framing her. (R)

11.30 Film: The Mission. (1986)
Historical drama, with Robert
De Niro and Jeremy Irons.

1.30 Sign Zone: Country

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan, 6.10 Dino Dan, (R) 6.25 Matt Hatter Chronicles, (R) 6.45 Canimals, (R) 6.56 Canimals, (R) 7.00 Canimals, (R) 7.10 M Nom Stories, (R) 7.15 Dm Nom Stories, (R) 7.15 Dm Nom Stories, (R) 7.20 Sooty, (R) 7.30 Scrambied! 9.25 Murder, She Wrote, (R) 10.25 Dickinson's Real Deal, (R) 11.25 ID Klinson's Real Deal, (R) 11.25 ID Klinson's Real Deal, (R) 12.30 Film: Columbo: Death Hist the Jackpot, (1991) 2.30 The Crocodile Hunter Diaries, (R) 3.30 Film: Diamonds are Forever (1971) 5.50 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.00 ITV News; Weather

ITV News; Weather.
Dancing on Ice. Phillip
Schofield and Christine
Bleakley host the semi-final,
and the competition is sure
to be intense with only three
grabs. The results are at
3.0pm.
All Star Family Fortunes.
Coronation Street special of
the game show. Last in the
series.

Dancing on Ice: The Skate
Off. The two lowest-scoring
couples compete. Last in the

series.

Mr Selfridge. Following
Henri's arrest and Harry's
disappearance, the police
visit the Selfridges' home in
search of clues. Agnes

search of clues. Agines receives an ominous telegram and Lady Mae faces a tough decision.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 It'll Be Alright on the Night's Best of the Worst.

best of the Worst.
Compilation of clangers from the programme's history, (R)
11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.
12.15 The Store. 2.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.45 TTV
Nightscreen.

**CHANNEL 4** 

6.20 The Hoobs. (R) 6.45 The Hoobs. (R) 7.10 Freesports on 4.7.35 Arenacross 8.00 Film Superbike World Championship. 8.35 Soch Special: Paralympip. 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.35 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.30 How! Met Your Mother. 2.25 The Simpsons. (R) 2.56 The Simpsons. (R) 3.20 Deal Champions (R) 4.25 Film Grease. (1978) 6.30 Champions. (R) 6.30

Channel 4 News

Channel 4 News.
Fish Fight: Hugh's Last
Stand. Follow-up
documentary in which Hugh
Fearnley-Whittingstall tells
the story of how hundreds of
thousands of people came
together to bring about
radical reforms to fishing
poli

policies.
Britain's Bronze Age
Mummies: A Time Team
Special. Tony Robinson
follows an archaeological dig
on a burial ground in
Northumberland and
investigates other finds that
are changing people's
understanding of the Bronze

Film: Salt. (2010) A CIA 9.00 Film: Salt. (2U1U) A DIA agent goes on the run after she is accused of being a sleeper assassin sent to president. Action thriller, starring Angelina Jolle and Liev Schreiber.

11.00 Film: Predator. (1987) A military team on a mission in a Central American jungle in a Central American jungle in the president of the president in search of human prey. Sci-fi thriller, with Arnold Schwarzenegger.

1.00 Film: The Fountain. (2006)

1.00 Film: The Fountain. (2006) 2.35 One Born Every Minute. (R)

## **DIGITAL CHANNEL 5** CHANNEL 5 6.00 Milkshakel: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fifl and the Flowertots. (R) 6.25 Bubble Standard Car. (R) 6.25 Bubble Show (R) 6.50 Choles Closet (R) 7.00 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.00 End of Friends. (R) 7.25 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.35 City of Friends. (R) 7.25 Tooly Closet (R) 7.00 Fig. 100 Fig. 1

BBC Three 7.00 The Voice UK 9.15 Hair 10.15 Family Guy 11.00 Bluestone 42 11.30 American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 Timeshift: The Golden
Age of Coach Travel 8.00 The
Fairytale Castles of King Ludwig II
with Dan Cruickshank 9.00
Timewatch: Captain Cook – The
Man Behind the Legend 10.00
Film: Barbara (2012) 11.40
Timeshift: The Golden Age of
Coach Travel
ITV2

ITV2
2.15 Film: Step Up (2006) 4.25 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
5.45 Film: The Incredible Hulk
(2008) 7.55 Film: Coyote Ugly
(2000) 10.00 The Only Way is
Essex 10.50 Party Wright Around the World 11.50 The Big Reunion
2014

ITV4
3.05 Tim Vine's Punslinger 4.25
Film: The Sting (1973) 7.00
Storage Wars 8.00 Premiership
Rugby Union 9.00 Film: Memphis
Belle (1990) 11.10 Hell on Wheels

E4
3.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD
4.00 The Tomorrow People 5.00
Troy 6.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 6.30
The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: 10
Things I-Hat About You (1999)
10.00 The Big Bang Theory 10.30
My Mad Fat Diary 11.30 How I Met
Your Mother

Z.55 Stardust (2007) 5.20 Fantastic Mr Fox (2009) 7.05 The Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud (2010) 9.00 Sanctum (2011) 11.10 Pride and Glory (2008)

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6.35 Film: The Filth Element.
(1997) So-If adventure,
starring Bruce Willis.
8.55 News Weekend.
(2000) A single mother goes
to work at a law firm and
suspected of contaminating
a small town's water. Factbased drama, with Julia
Roberts and Albert Finney.
11.45 Film: The Fog. (2000)
1.35 Superon.
1.45 Film: The Fog. (2001)
1.45 Film: The Fog. (2001)
1.55 Superon.
1.65 Superon.
1.67 Superon. For the FREE Age UK Hearing Aids Consumer Guide or to book a **FREE** no obligation hearing assessment, please call **UKHEARING CARE** 

Film: The Fifth Element. (1997) Sci-fi adventure,

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### **Film Choices**

Monday Lethal Obsession, Channel 5, 3.15pm Lethal Obsession, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman with a troubled marriage attends a family
funeral, and is reunited with her dangerously
overprotective brother. He initially seems to have moved
on from his past obsessive behaviour, but when people
around her start disappearing, she realises he is killing
anyone he disapproves of – and her husband may be
next. Thriller, starring Kellile Martin and Adam
MacDonald. (2007)

Mercenary for Justice, Channel 5, 11pm

A soldier for hire vows to look after the wife and son of a dead comrade-in-arms, but the family is kidnapped by a rogue CIA faction. The mercenary is forced to carry out a dangerous mission to break into a notorious South African prison and free the son of an arms dealer. Action thriller, starring Steven Seagal, Jacqueline Lord, Roger Guenveur Smith and Luke Goss. (2006)

Tuesday
Deadly Isolation, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A widow is unaware her academic husband led a double life as a jewel thief, and was once involved in the theft of \$20million in diamonds. However, when his two partners in crime are released from prison, they come starring Sherilyn Fenn and Nicholas Lea. (2005)



#### World Trade Center, Channel 4, 12,05am

Fact-based drama inspired by the events of September 11. The film focuses on two police officers who were trapped in the wreckage of one of the Twin Towers while they oversaw the evacuation, and examines the effects of the tragic incident on their families. Directed by Oliver Stone and starring Nicolas Cage, Maria Bello, Michael Pena and Maggie Gyllenhaal. (2006)

Thursday Obsession, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman receives a promotion at work that entails moving to a different city, so decides to end her relationship with her boyfriend and make a fresh start. However, he does not take kindly to the rejection. Thriller, starring Charisma Carpenter. (2011)

The Proposal, BBC1, 10.35pm

A Canadian publishing editor working in New York faces deportation to her own country. Desperate to stay in America, she offers her assistant a promotion if he will marry her, but an immigration official becomes suspicious and the pair are forced to go to desperate lengths to look like a happy couple. Romantic comedy, starring Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds. (2009)

### **Pick of the Week**

## **Everyday menus for** special occasions

ary Berry may be 78, an age when most people are concentrating on relaxing rather than reaching the peak of their career, but she's bigger and more popular than ever.

Nobody could have foreseen hat a phenomenon that show would end up being, and how it would suddenly turn Mary into a national

Okay, so long-standing foodies were already aware of her thanks to her recipe books and earlier TV experiences, but none of those brought her the same kind of exposure as the Bake Off did.

exposure as the bake on unu. She'll be back for a new run of that later in the year when the show moves to BBC1, but for now, she's on BBC2 again, this time presenting sik-part series, in which she offers tips for nervous cooks from her own kitchen. her own kitchen

Mary hopes to inspire people to prepare meals for both everyday and special occasions, including meals

As ever, Mary delivers her advice in her firm but fair, gentle yet easy-to-understand way – and she likes to keep it straightforward, too.

"First of all, you have to decide what you're going to do," she says when asked for advice on what to cook for a

"Go simple and don't try something you haven't done before. It's a good idea to have the first course and the pud chilled, and then you can concentrate on the main meal.

"I don't want anything last-minute because anything can happen. I do try to plan, because I want to be with my guests. It's all about them, and they don't want to see you stressed. And if you're in the kitchen cooking with them, they can watch you, and people like that."

people like trat.

Unlike some TV chefs, she
doesn't like to bombard viewers with
ingredients they may never have
heard of: "It's very important that the
recipes work and contain
ingredients that everybody can buy

from their local supermarkets." Amen to that!

She kicks off the series by offering ideas for a traditional tea party. You'll certainly never look at sandwiches in the same way again, and will be rushing out to buy the ingredients to make Mary's mouth-watering bitesized scones too.

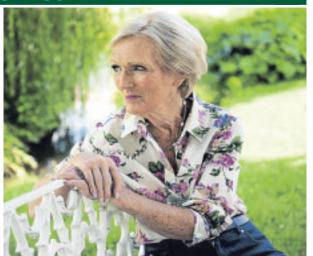
Her granddaughters also make a guest appearance while helping her make orange butterfly cakes.

As for Mary's dream guests, who would she choose? Alongside her beloved family, she has a very special couple in mind.

couple in mind.

"would like to have the Duke and Duchess and Cambridge," she smiles. "I did actually meet them while working with the charity Child Bereavement UK. It would be lovely to cook for them because one day he's going to be the king of England.

"I know what they like, because they use my cookery books. I'd have to do a pudding with brandy for Katherine and William, I think, would like tallagio chicken. They are in very good shape so I wouldn't want to go too overboard!"



Mary Berry Cooks, Monday, BBC2, 8.30pm

### **Best of the Rest**

#### Monday

#### Never Knew That About Britain

Author Christopher Winn loves trivia, which is why ne came up with the idea for a book called I Never Recame up with the local of a book called investigation. Knew That About England, and when it became a hit, followed it with tomes about Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Each edition featured little-known facts about each country, and went on to be the inspiration for this new, eight-part series. Paul Martin, Suzannah Lipscomb and Steve Mould investigate weird and wonderful places and people rom the past, and begin with remarkable tales nvolving an unsung hero with connections to the Spitfire and, bizarrely, the folding buggy, the Welsh women who battled Napoleon and the chap whose experiments helped the development of pain relief.

BBC1, 9pm Writer Peter Moffat's idea for this series was to capture the 'extreme pressure, the hard choices, the ethical dilemmas, of life as a barrister, and the latest offering does that rather well. Martha (Maxine Peake) is assigned to defend a footballer accused of a pitch assault on another player. Considering the incident had thousands of witnesses, it seems she's finally bitten off more than she can chew. It doesn't help that her client is reluctant to cooperate and help his defence, so she must get him on side to discover a secret he's determined to keep hidden from the football world. Also this week chambers are shocked by a resignation and Billy Neil Stuke) takes steps to ensure Shoe Lane's

#### Tuesday Death in Paradise

as she walked home.

BBC1, 9pm Emma Redding is a retired lifesaver who was due to turn up at a party, but when she doesn't show or answer her phone, it sets alarm bells ringing. Her door is forced open and she's found dead on her bed with an empty packet of sleeping pills at her side. Two key questions dominate the case: how did the alleged killer get out of her locked room. and could one of Emma's so-called friends be the

### Wednesday Left for Dead by the Yorkshire Ripper

Channel 5, 8pm Be warned: this won't make for easy viewing However, if anyone's happy putting a challenging and thought-provoking documentary about serial killers out there under an eye-catching title, it's Channel 5. This particularly harrowing film - shown surprisingly, before the watershed – focuses on one of Britain's most notorious murderers, Peter Sutcliffe, or the Yorkshire Ripper. Over the course of his five-year reign of terror, he killed 13 women and attempted to murder eight more, and we hear from some of those survivors who recount Sutcliffe's attacks blow-by-blow. They include Marylyn Moore, who has never told her story before on television, and Tracy Browne, who describes how, when she was a 14-year-old schoolgirl, she was attacker

### Line of Duty

BBC2, 9pm
Thanks to its authentic police procedural action, the first series of this tense drama is one of the seen in a long while. This series has been progressing at a real pace, and tonight sees Arnott uncover evidence that a tracker had been planted on one of the vehicles in the police convoy which was ambushed. Sole survivor Lindsay Denton, meanwhile, implies that Deputy Chief Constable Dryden was embroiled in a wider conspiracy – a when a series of video recordings made by the witness while in protective custody are discovered.

it's not long before the AC-12 officers begin to realise she's right – but it may be too late as she's in danger.



ITV, 9pm
For more than half a century, Coronation Street has captured the hearts of the nation from the same location in Manchester.
However, all that has changed recently.

During the past two vears a new set has been built to house the Rovers Dev's shop

Underworld, and all those beloved homes, Of course for many long-term residents of the Street it's been an emotional upheaval moving to a different set. Here, cameras cover the final week of filming in December 2013 at Granada Studios, and document the cast and crew's move two miles away to MediaCity UK at Salford Quays

#### BBC1, 9pm

BBC golden boy Nick Knowles is a busy man at the moment – if he's not doting on his pregnant wife ahead the birth of their baby boy in the summer, he can usually be found doling out good news in various National Lottery game shows of a Saturday evening. He's going to meet himself coming backwards one of these days, but no matter how hectic his schedule gets, he'll always have time for DIY SOS. This week, he and the team are coming to the aid of Paul Makings, whose wife died shortly after she gave birth to their sixth child.

#### Friday Gogglebox Channel 4, 9pm

Okay, watching people watching telly really shouldn't be so addictive. But it is, thanks to this Big Brother-style series which has proved a hit with the nation. Whatever the reason for its likeability, bosses have thought it popular enough to bring it back for a third series, and in a Friday night primetime slot nonetheless. Narrated by Caroline Aherne, the series will feature the opinionated British households that have become so wellrecognised, as well as some new faces

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Sudoku

#### Puzzler

6 2

3

5

3

8

6

4

9

6

3

2

2

3

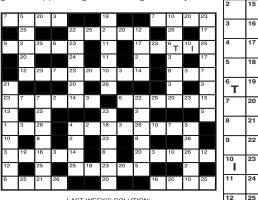
8

## **Brain Gym**

No.262

#### Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



F 3M 4N 5E 6H 7P 8D 9J 10R 11 12W 13A

#### **Double Crossword**

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

#### **Cryptic Clues:**

- 7. Killing time officially (7.6)
- 8. Don't give up get-
- ting the unit back in shape (8)
- 9. Two-way agreement (4)
- 10. We arrange sale of an animal (6)
- action (6)
- 14. Inferior type of
- 16. Mother and son supply fruit (6)
- 18. It's sung in variations (4)
- 20. Produce green tea, perhaps (8)
- 22. Arrogant description of Everest?

#### Down

- 1. The Poles are, but not the N. and S. ones (8)
- 2. Expresses conditions (6) 3. Soon unknown (4)
- 4. New radio set of
- astronomical importance (8)
- 5. I dread to be attacked (6)
- 6. A wooden trunk (4) 11. Man in a suit (8)
- 13. A top seat for a
- renegade (8) 15. Heartily dislike a hotel under recon-
- struction (6) 17. An illusion of heat (6)
- 19. It flies or takes a train (4)
- 21. Possibly mean to

#### Quick Clues:

#### Across

- 7. Absolutely necessary (13)
- 9. Space (4)
- 10. Fondle (6)
- **12.** Aptitude (6)
- 14. Alcove (6) 16. Distant (6)
- 18. Fashionable (4)
- 20. Demonstrative (8)

- 1. Point out (8)
- 2. Uncomplicated (6)
- 3. Frank (4)
- 4. Forefather (8)
- 5. Cask (6)
- 6. Too (4)
- 11. Uneasy uncertainty (8)
- 13. Birth of Christ (8)
- 15. Get free (6) 17. Meditation (6)
- 19. Greet (4)

## Fill in the grid below so that every column,

every row and each of the 3x3 all the digits

5

6

6

7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Stud; 8 Infallible; 9 Attended: 10 Ends; 12 Yeadry; 14 Eat out; 15 Millier; 17 Stroll; 18 Left; 19 Contract; 21 Man of parts; 22 Hang. Down: 2 Toe the line; 3 Dime; 4 Off day; 5 Piedge; 6 Director; 7 Pews; 11 Double chim; 3 Relation; 16 Recipe; 17 Sundry; 18 Lima; 20 Rush, OUICK - Across: 1 Lass; 8 Triumphant; 9 Complete; 10 Seep; 12 Artist; 14 Evince; 15 Static; 17 Treble; 18 Scar; 19 Maneater; 21 Felicitous; 22 Over. Down: 2 Autocratic; 3 Stop; 4 Divest; 5 Impede; 6 Chastise; 7 Step; 11 Excel lence; 13 Intermix; 16 Commit; 17 Tendon; 18 Sift; 20 Also.



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UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£595 DEPOSIT £695 + FEES





#### MADISON AVENUE MERRY HILL

A Two Bedroom second floor Apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: communal entrance with secure entry phone system, Private entranc hall with useful storage cupboard, open lounge & kitchen with Juliette balcony, bathroom, two bedrooms - master with en-suite and Juliette balcony. The property further benefits fror double glazing, central heating, communal grounds and allocated parking, UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = B DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£550 DEPOSIT £650 + FEES





#### HIGH STREET HARBORNE

A spacious two bedroom first floor maisonette with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts electric storage heating, roof terrace and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£525PCM DEPOSIT £625 + FEES





#### LIDDIARD COURT WOLLASTON

Abautifully presented two bedroom second floor over 60's apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Communal entrance, communal olunge, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, storage heating, communal gardens and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C PETS: NO CHILDREN: No DSS: No SMOKERS: No

£525PCM- DEPOSIT £625+FEES





#### WALTERS ROW DUDLEY

An extremely well presented two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Kitchen, lounge, Two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: YES PETS: NO CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO

£500PCM Deposit £600 + Fees





An Unfurnished two bed-room modern, semi de-An Unfurnished two bed-room modern, semi de-tached property in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of living room, kitchen, two bedrooms, and a bath-room. The property further benefits from gas central heating, rear garden and off road parking. UN-FURNISHED EPC RATING = D

= D DSS: NO CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO PETS:NO

£495PCM- DEPOSIT £595+FEES





#### HOLLY ROAD ROWLEY REGIS

A Two Bedroom End Terrace Victorian property situated in a popular location. Accommodation comprises of Lounge, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas fired central heating, double glazing and a rear garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING: EDSS:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO CHILDREN:YES





#### GAUDEN ROAD WOLLESCOTE

A beautifully presented two bedroom apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: L shaped reception hall, lounge, superb refitted kitchen, two bedrooms, separate WC and re-appointed bathroom. The property furthe benefits from having as central heating and well tended lawned gardens surrounding the development. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: MAY CONSIDER: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£450PCM-DEPOSIT £550 + FEES





#### DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

An attractive modern starter home situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, two Bedrooms and Shower Room. The property also benefits from sealed unit bouble Glaz-ing, small fore Garden and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES

£400PCM- DEPOSIT £500+FEES





A one bedroom, second floor apartment offering a convenient location within walking distance of Stourbridge Town Centre and accommodation to comprise: reception hall. comprise: reception rain, lounge, double bedroom kitchen and bathroom. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = G DSS:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO CHILDESN:NO CHILDEN:NO CHILDEN:NO

DREN:NO

£400pcm -DEPOSIT £500+FEES





#### BELL STREET BRIERLEY HILL

A Beautifully presented refurbished and spacious one bedroom first floor flat having direct access to Brierley Hill shopping centre. The accommodation comprises of Entrance with staircase to the first floor, first floor landing, lounge, breakfast kitchen bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating and double glazing. PART FURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: MAY CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM DEPOSIT £495 + FEES





#### BLAENWERN DRIVE HALESOWEN

A spacious two bedroom first floor apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property also benefits from having storage heating, double glazing, communal gardens and en-bloc garage. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM DEPOSIT £495 + FEES





#### LOWER HIGH STREET STOURBRIDGE

ted one bedroom second floor apartment situated in the heart of Stourbridge with accommodation to comprise of: External staircase at the rear of the second floor, entrance hall, lounge/kitchen, bedroom and en-suite shower property to the second floor, entrance hall, lounge/kitchen, bedroom and en-suite shower room. The property further benefits from having Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS:

£395PCM- DEPOSIT £495+FEES





#### BAGLEYS ROAD BRIERLEY HILL

A very well presented One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat in a popular residential location. Accommodation to comprise: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Inner Hall, Bedroom and Bathroom. In addition there is a small planted Fore Garden, Communal Parking and a Communal Rear Garden with drying area. FURNISHED/UNURNISHED EPC RATING = E. CHILDREN: No. PETS: No. DSS: No SMOKERS: No.

£395PCM - DEPOSIT £495 + FEES





A well presented one bedroom first floor Apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Reception hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom and built in shower room. The property also benefits from double glazing and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D
DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£390PCM DEPOSIT £490 + FEES





#### KINGSWAY WOLLASTON

A well presented two bedroom large first floor flat situated close to all local amenities with accommodation to comprise: Reception hall lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing and gas central heating. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING= E DSS: NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO

£375PCM DEPOSIT £475+FEES



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#### HIGH STREET WORDSLEY

A well presented one bedroom first floor apartment with accommodation to comprise of: Private entrance, open plan Lounge/Kitchen being fully carpeted and with oven and lob, Bedroom with built in storage and Bathroom with shower. The property further penefits from double glazing and electric heating.

The property further the present file property. LINE LIRBUSHED.

benefits from double glazing and electric heating. There is allocated parking to the rear of the property. UNFURNISHED EOC RATING = G DSS:YES PETS:NO CHILDREN:NO SMOKERS:NO

£375PCM DEPOSIT £475 + FEES

## **Property**

## A stylishly refurbished semi-detached home





STYLISHLY refurbished traditional three bedroomed semi-detached home, Pensnett Road, Holly Hall, Dudley, is ideal for the discerning young family.

Close to Russells Hall Hospital, it is for sale through Jon Stanier at £124,950.

It has a reception hall, lounge, re-fitted dining kitchen with white units and wood-effect work surfaces, an attractive re-appointed bathroom pleasant good sized rear gardens and parking for two cars. Contact Jon Sta-nier on 01384 77877 or visit the www.





## **Stylish four-bed house** has lots to offer buyer



ed and fitted four-bedroomed detached house in Flamborough Way, Coseley, features a

stylish kitchen and bathroom. It is for sale through Dixons at offers over £190,000.

offers over £190,000. It has an entrance hall, lounge with a modern feature fireplace and front-facing bay window, dining room with wood-effect flooring and sliding patio doors out to the rear garden, kitchen , utility, downstairs WC. Upstairs there is a fully tiled modern bathroom suite, a master bedroom with en suite and three further good sized bedrooms.

room with en suite and three further good sized bedrooms There is a rear garden, ample driveway and a garage. For further information contact Dixons on 01384 847254 or visit the website at www.dixonsestateagents













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## **Drivetime**

## Stamp your own personality

#### By David Banner

Thinking of a MINI or a Fiat 500? Then you also need to be thinking about Vauxhall's trendy little ADAM, the brand's little lifestyle citycar.

Here's a fashionable alternative with an encyclopaedic list of options, bidding for individuality beyond the hatchback herd.

The model's title is a nod to Adam Opel, the founder of Yauxhall's European sisten company, but is unlikely to start a trend for Biblical car names. It may though, start a trend for buyer personalisation, the like of which the market has never before seen.

With over a million possible specification and trim combinations, the chances of two identical Vauxhall ADAMs ever being produced are statistically quite



slim. Ground-breaking where it matters then – in the showroom. To disguise perhaps the fact that this car is actually quite conventional in arguably less important areas, running on the underpinnings of Yauxhall's old third generation. Corsa

Vauxhall's old third generation Corsa. Slide into the seat and there's a very different feel from that provided by a Corsa – or any other conventional supermini. The commanding driving position, the big chunky MINI-like wheel, the wide, low glass area. – it all makes you eager to tackle the urban jungle, with the promise of secondary road sportiness beyond. Not too much mind. There's no real-

Not too much mind. There's no really rorty engine in the line-up and the underpinnings are resolutely Corsa-based, not a supermini many would instinctively equate with an especially rewarding drive. Better to simply accept this car for the friendly fashion trinket it is, with the





'The model's title is a nod to Adam Opel, the founder of Vauxhall's European sister company' proviso that the entry-level 70PS 1.2-litre 16v engine does struggle a little with the task of pushing nearly 1.1-tonnes of ADAM up the road with any real zin

of ADAM up the road with any real zip. As with all the powerplants launched with this car, it's a petrol unit, 62mph from rest occupying nearly 15 seconds on the way to a top speed only just over 100mph. Better by far to find only a little more for one of the 1.4s, an 87PS unit that manages 62mph in a far more acceptable 12.5 seconds on the way to 109mph. And a 100PS engine that improves things further to 11.5 seconds and 115mph. Ask for something

a little more hi-tech and the designers will point to the three cylinder 1.0-litre petrol. Prices start at just over £11,000 for the base 1.2i 16v petrol version, but find the extra few hundred for one of the two

petrol 1.4s that are notably less feeble.

There are three main trim levels for the ADAM: Baseline is 'JAM', supposed to be what Vauxhall calls 'fashionable', pay just under £1,500 more to go 'GLAM' for a trim package that's apparently more 'elegant', or pay a further £500 on top of that for the top, supposedly 'sportier' trim level 'SLAM'.

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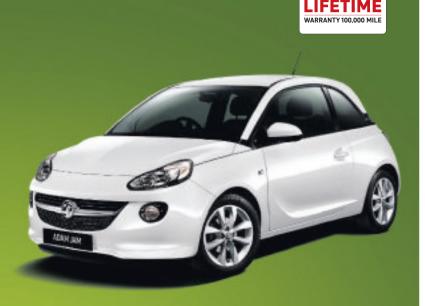
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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). ADAM JAM 1.2i 16v VVT: Urban: 39.8 (7.1), Extra-urban: 67.3 (4.2), Combined: 53.5 (5.3). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 124g/km#

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## VW on the mark for SUV

#### By Graham Breeze

VOLKSWAGEN is relentless in its pursuit of a high ranking in the large SUV sector and the new Touareg R-Line is proof of the company's determination.

Based on the well-equipped Touar-eg Altitude, the Touareg R-Line adds luxurious extra equipment and unique R-Line styling in the battle to stand out in a crowded market.

Someone in the VW camp probably pointed out that it would be a useless ex-ercise trying to emulate the off-road capa-bilities of Land Rover Discovery or Range Rover and instead said let's produce an up-market model that's more at home on the road.

Well they succeeded. Most models will never see a muddy track and while Touareg

thanks to its high ground clearance and 4MOTION permanent four-wheel drive.

On the road Touareg has impressive comfort levels and refinement and sharp

handling for such a huge car.
Sitting on 20-inch 'Tarragona' alloy wheels with 275/45 R20 tyres, the R-Line stands out because of distinctive front and rear bumpers and side skirts and distinc-tive badging on the front wings.

Standard bi-xenon headlights with dvnamic curve lighting and LED daytime running lights give the R-Line driver a commanding view of the road, and are com-plemented by LED rear lights and number-plate lights

The R-Line body kit also gives you front and rear bumper and side skirt styling and unique door sill protectors with the logo. Chrome twin tailpipes add a final touch.

Many rivals come with seven seats but Touareg is strictly for five people though



the long wheelbase means there's plenty of space wherever you're sitting. The entire rear bench can be moved back and forth to create the space where you need it most.

Folding the back seats down is a t the flick of a switch to increase luggage space from 580 li-tres to a massive 1,642 litres. And to help drivers cope with the large dimensions when manoeu-

vring, rear parking sensors are fitted as standard. On test was the 3.0litre V6 TDi PS which was fitted with a splendid eight speed automatic tiptronic system which is available at on-the-road price tag of £47,070. That seems a lot but you get a lot of car for your money and the cost com-

impressive top speed of 137mph and 0-62mph in 7.6seconds, as well as combined fuel figures of 39.2mpg. But on the downside you sit in group 40E for insurance purpose and don't protect the planet much with C02 readings of 189g/km.
You will be safe in this model with ABS and

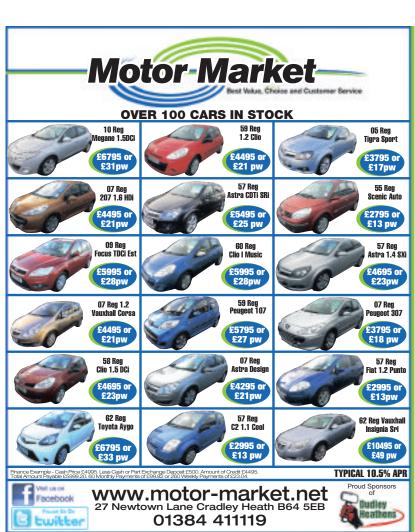
EBD braking systems standard along with an in-LEBD braking system's standard along with an in-telligent ESP system. You get curtain air bags all round, a rollover protection system and to give you an extra feel of security there's an alarm, electronic immobiliser and child security locks. The R-Line really competes when it comes to comfort levels. There's a superb touch screen

system incorporating SatNav and all the other electronic paraphernalia now associated with luxury travel such as Bluetooth and a multi-de-vice interface. There's the now expected stop/ start system as well as hill descent assist and the 4MOTION permanent four wheel drive system has limited slip differential and electronic differential lock on all four wheels meaning you can feel free to go off road if you want.

Would I buy the R-Line? Probably not because

I found this Volkswagen just too big. Otherwise Volkswagen have got things just right for taking on the SUV market and will certainly reach their expected targets.







(between Cousins and Dudley Zoo)

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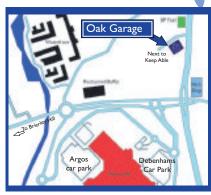
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If you can downsize one notch, you get a car that's cheaper to run, better built inside and comes with some sophisticated technology which makes it feel like money extremely well spent. The Mercedes A180 CDI ECO SE

develops exactly the same power output as the conventional A180 CDI it replaces but the key mechanical change is a manual transmission with longer ratios in the higher gears.

There's also an improved energy recuperation system and the fitment of a lightweight fuel tank to reduce

Does this change the way the car

sprint to 62mph and 118mph top end makes it appear a little pedestrian. Still, sacrifices do need to be made in order to achieve such excellent economy and emissions figures but

Not markedly. The old A180 CDI was never exactly a tarmac scorcher

and the ECO model's 11.3 second

you'd be wrong to condemn the A180 CDI as a dull outing as a result.

#### Fun

While it's certainly not quick in a straight line, there's fun to be had here; something you couldn't really level at its predecessors.

Like other A Class models, the steering is sharp and well-weighted, the manual gearbox is crisp and positive, the brakes are reassuring, front end grip is very good and body control is better than such a tall car has any right to deliver.

The 1.5-litre engine delivers its 258Nm of torque from just 1,750rpm.
The ECO version of the A180 CDI

SE features an aerodynamic grille ele-ment, coupled with underbody panel-

ling and suspension that's lowered by 10mm front and 15mm at the rear, giving it a hunkered down appearance.

All trim elements have an electro-plated finish, resulting in real metal surfaces with a 'cool touch' effect. The instrument panel is divided into

a wing profile-type upper section and solid lower section.

An interesting design touch is what

looks like an iPad sitting on the upper part of the centre console but which is in fact an integrated touch-screen system which syncs seamlessly with a smartphone

There's not a whole lot of choice when specifying your ECO designated A-Class. It's an A180 CDI SE or nothing. Still, at least for around £22,000, you do get air conditioning, electric windows all-round, sports seats, a trip computer, ARTICO and cloth up-holstery, the Audio 20 radio with CD tablet-style colour display, six speakers, telephone keypad, and Bluetooth and USB inputs. You'll need to be a little careful when choosing options to protect those residuals.





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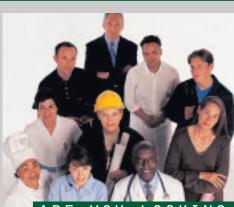
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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.

puppy whilst it is still with its

2. Do not arrange to collect a
puppy from any other location
than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given any
KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News
Association publications take
great care to avoid publication
of advertisements from Puppy
Farmers we cannot accept any
liability should readers
purchase from this kind of
establishment.

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JACK RUSSELL bitch, 2 years old, £150. 50. 01384 233910.

JACK RUSSELL PUPS. Very small, handbag size. £165. Telephone 07972 604503.

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Wild Acre Rescue would like to
say a massive thank you to
everyone who has donated
towards Kelly's treatment. Wa
are truly humbled by the
response.
Please forgive us for not replying personally but we would like
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last Friday and it looks like her
leg may be saved, although she
has lost all of her toes, and she
has a way to go yet.
Please follow her progress
on our Facebook page, Wild
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www.wildacrerescue.co.uk

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MAX Nine month old Beagle
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white springer x jack russell
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affectionate, loving, only dog
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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

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FIAT PUNTO GRANDE 1242d silver, 30k, MoT'd, serviced, go onver, 30k, MoT'd, serviced, good condition, two owners, £2,600 on 07818 444755/01902 743730.

FORD FIESTA Ghia 1.2, red, T reg, 5dr hatchback, 44,700 miles, MoT 5dr natchback, 44,700 r and Tax Jul, £1,595 ono 07870 925119

FORD FOCUS 1.6, 2008, 52,000 miles, black, full Ford service history, MoT, tax, excellent condition, £4,799. 07981 852971. FORD FOCUS LX, 1.6cc, 2005, alloys, air con, CL, tax Oct 14, 1 month MoT, 49,000 miles, genuine sale, £2,900. 01384 379507.

HYUNDAI MATRIX, 2007, 28200 miles, silver, electric mirrors, MoT May, tax April, manual, petrol, £2,650. 07757 003954.



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RENAULT KANGOO 08, Silver, 46k, 1.6, petrol, wheelchair ramp, MoT. Very good condition. £2,750 ono. 07974 311116.

RENAULT MEGANE, 2007, Convertible, 1.5 diesel, 45,000 miles silver, 12 months MoT, £4,200 ono 07971 300312.

SEAT IBIZA 1.4
2005, 55 reg. 83,000 miles, petrol, hatchback. 3 door, black, abs, electric windows, air con, 15h, alarm, MoT, tax, central locking, 16ins alloys. £1,995 ono. 01384 923788.



VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI

2007, 92,000 miles, black, abs ctric windows, electric ors, air con, fsh, alarm, long Γ, central locking, pas, diesel, tax, alloys, CD.

£3,250 ono. 07885 245428.

VAUXHALL CORSA, 2007, 5 door, 49,000 miles, flame red, a/c, fsh, tax Aug. MoT Sept, one family owned, £3,595. 01384 374338.

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.4TSI, 2009, 56k miles, 3 door, black, abs, electric windows, alloys,£6,750. 01902 664647.

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£575 ono." 07973 505851. DAEWOO MATIZ W reg, 12 months MoT, 7 months tax, good condition, £595 ono. 07967 220306.

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FORD KA 04 plate, 1 lady owner 44k, 12 months MoT, tax till August red, immaculate condition, £1,450 01902 758271 or 07894 411757.

FORD KA04 reg, black, full MoT, tax till Oct, new tyres, very good condi-tion, £945 one, 07966 393132. PEUGEOT 206 SW Estate, 2003, 1400cc, petrol, long MoT, tax, 71k miles, £795, 07950 398750.

miles, £795. 07950 398750.

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 1.2,
3 door, 51 reg, in black, only 75 k,
alloys, CD, 10 months MoT, excellent, £995. 07507 615478.

RENAULT SCENIC 2003, 1.6, FSH 73,000, cambelt replaced, new MoT, 2 remote keys. £1,250. Kid-derminster 07971 561112.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 Club, 2000 W Plate, MoT and Tax Oct, 59,000 miles, silver, very good condition £550 ono. 01384 830106.

£550 ono. 01384 830106.

VAUXHALL ASTRA, 2000, 67,000 miles, silver, electric windows, MoT, central locking, pas, tax, CD, £800 ono. 07849 570410.

VW GOLF MK3
1994, M reg, 5 door, TDi GL,
157,000 miles, 6 months tax, 12
months MoT, very reliable,
good on diesel.
£625 ono.
Telephone 07890 530979
(Wolverhampton).

VW POLO 1.2, 12v, MoT till December, tax till May, very clean, good condition, good runner, £1,450 ono 07949 510980.

## commercial vehicles

CITROEN BERLINGO Van 1.9 HDi, 2003, MoT/tax Jun, diesel, used daily, £650 ono. 07977 555842.

FORD TRANSIT Connect 200 Diesel 56 reg, side loading door, white, excellent condition, £1,695. 01905 620390 or 07769 782320

RENAULT KANGOO VAN, 2003 86,000 miles, white, MoT, centra locking, diesel, tax. Good condition £1,200 ono. 07846 531627.

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#### SPORT

## Side win away as place race heats up

STOURBRIDGE travelled to fellow Wolverhampton Division contenders and defending champions St

Division contenders and defending champions St George's.

The late availability of Jeremy Fallowfield meant Stourbridge were close to full strength. St George's were missing two key players. First to finish was grandmaster Keith Arkell on board one who overwhelmed his opponent.

This was soon followed by a win for the aggressive playing Greg Dyett. Meanwhile Jeremy Fallowfield on board two had to settle for a draw. On board six Dave Scriven was surprised when his opponent resigned to give Stourbridge the match. Nick Fallowfield showed great skill to win a "bishops of opposite colours ending" which would often be considered drawn even though Nic was a pawn up.

This was followed by a win for Nick Arkell in a time scramble. So we won the match 5.5.0.5 and we are still very much in the hunt for the title.

On Wednesday the BDCL 3 team faced Halesowen and

On Wednesday the BDCL 3 team faced Halesowen and won the match 3.5 to 1.5.

## Hutton's exile due to wages

BOSS Paul Lambert has lifted the lid on Alan Hutton's Villa exile and admitted he has been frozen out because he earns too much. The claret and blues chief has confirmed for the first time financial reasons are behind Hutton's banishment.

ment.
The Scotland international – who has been called up by Gordon Strachan to face Poland next month – is on £40,000-a-week at Villa Park.

on £40,000-a-week at Villa Park.
Hutton has not played for Lambert at Villa with his last appearance coming under Alex McLeish at Tottenham in May, 2012.
And Lambert admitted the right-back, whose contract expires in 2015, will not play again as they look to get him off the wage bill.
"It will be unlikely he will ever play here – he knows that. We need to get the structure down to a level," said Lambert, who has also shipped out big earners Stephen Ireland and Darren Bent.

## Jones' double is killer blow for Glassboys

Stourbridge 1 Albion 2
TWO goals from striker Alex
Jones saw the Albion under-21
side through into the last four of
the Birmingham Senior Cup.
A late well-taken goal by Ben
Billingham gave the home side
brief hope that they might be able
to force extra-time, but Albion
held out for what was a deserved
victory.

victory.

Albion shaded the early exchanges and in the fifth minute skipper Liam O'Neil drilled a 30yard effort before the visitors took advantage of some poor defending to take a 14th minute lead.

Mani O'Sullivan reached a ball first ahead of an advancing Dean Coleman and pushed a low shot goal-wards that was collected by the covering Will Richards, however his clearance went straight to the feet of Joe Ward who cut in and hit a shot from the left-hand edge of the box that Coleman could only parry and Alex Jones was on hand to turn the ball over the line.

The home side struggled to pen-etrate the Albion back-line in the opening 25 minutes but on the half hour Luke Benbow was halfstopped just outside the box and

#### Football

the ball ran to Chris Knight on the right-hand side of the area and he

right-hand side of the area and he hit an angled shot that Jack Rose saved at his near post.

Stourbridge made a double change on the hour mark with Ben Billingham and Kayelden Brown entering the fray and just two minutes later, Brown, playing against his former club, had a hand in the hosts going close to an equaliser.

equaliser.

He received the ball and drove forward through the left channel

area before sweeping a fine pass across to Jordan Fitzpatrick in some room on the opposite side.

From close to the right-hand edge of the box, he fired in an angled low shot that ran across the face of the six-yard box with Benbow just unable to turn the ball in as he stretched at the far post. A well-crafted move almost yielded a second goal for Albion in the 70 minute.

Jordan Francis attacked down the left and fed Birch who clipped a delightful ball in, however O'Sullivan put his free header the wrong side of Coleman's right-

hand upright. Stourbridge replied four minutes later with a Sansara clearance finding Benbow, but he lofted his shot over from the left-hand side of the area. Tom Berwick was sent on as the Glassboys final change with 16 minutes left, however three minutes later the visitors opened up the Stourbridge defence to grab a second goal. Ward skipped past Nathan Bennett and slipped a pass into the path of the onrushing Jones who scored.

Stourbridge pulled a goal back two minutes from time thanks to Billingham.

## Pedmore keep their unbeaten run on ao

Pedmore (95-3) beat Oldswinford (75 all out) by 20 runs PEDMORE failed to capi-talise on the excellent start provided by Dave Skelding who raced to his 25 and re-tirgement tirement. Sam Perruza and John

tirement.

Sam Perruza and John
Hurdman struggled to give
the innings impetus against
some accurate bowling from
Ben Nightingale whose
three overs cost only 13. At
95 Pedmore's least impressive innings this season,
they must have wondered
whether their unbeaten run
was coming to an end.

As usual Harry Stanier
(35) and Lee Nightingale
(20) gave Oldswinford the
start required but once
again failed to get Nightingale to retirement and with
wickets regularly falling the
returning Stanier was left
with an impossible task.

Sam Perruza took 3-25 in
spite of Ishtak Mudabak's
short-lived attempt to rescue the innings which ended
with a spectacular catch
ND and pones off Perruza.

with a spectacular catch by Dan Jones off Perruza. John Hurdman's tight line

John Hurdman's tight line cost only 17 in his 3 overs. Lye (75 all out) lost to Enville 'A' (76-0) with 2 overs remaining Pedmore and Enville A meet on March 3 at 8pm.

## Smith is backing his boys

DEAN SMITH has backed Walsall to bounce back DEAN SMITH has backed Walsall to bounce back against Preston after railing against "consistently poor" referee Jeremy Simpson. The Saddlers boss was

The Saddlers boss was frustrated by many of the official's decisions in Saturday's 2-1 home defeat to Crawley Town, which dealt a serious blow to his side's play-off hopes. Smith's most serious complaint surrounded the award of a fourth minute penalty to the visitors, after Simpson adjudged Andy Butler to have handled in the box. "I asked the referee at

have handled in the box.

"I asked the referee at half-time, is there a new directive I don't know about, because I was told the wording in the rules is deliberate handball?" said Smith.

"The ball has hit Andy, bounced and hit his arm which is down by his side, which for me is not deliberate handball." The result leaves them five points out-

leaves them five points outside the top six

## Wolves stamp their authority on game

**Brentford 0 Wolves 3** 

AT Griffin Park the seemingly unstoppable west London club were checked in such conclusive fashion it was difficult to believe at the finish just how testing this fixture had seemed in the days approaching.

Three peachy strikes, picked off at critical moments, answered demands led by their head coach for more clinical finish

for more clinical finishing.
Individual performances on a beast of a surface moved up a notch, too, ensuring the execution of Jackett's game plan.
Carl Ikeme and his defenders, feeding off the first line of resistance established by Jack Price and Kevin McDonald, claimed another clean sheet. In this run of six successive wins, Sam Baldock's penalty for Bristol City remains the only breach of their lines.
Spirit

only breach of their lines.
Spirit
Two more goals for Michael Jacobs, a perfect execution on the counter attack followed by an even better one to finally break Brentford's spirit, suggested once again that Wolves did not so much sign him from Derby as commit an act of grand larceny.

as commit an act of grand larceny.

James Henry provided the first with an equally cultured clip, at pace and on the half volley, which spoke of the growing dimensions of this reconstituted squad.

For the supporters, the experience is proving as enjoyable as last season's was bitter. Wolves have already

#### **Football**

won 20 games, six more than they managed in the Championship crash and four more than they celebrated in those last two seasons in the Premier League. The match produced significant moments of quality. The best of them, happily, came from Wolves and clinched the result.

In the thick of Brentford's striving, Wolves claimed the goal that from early on you sensed was within their grasp.

sensed was within their grasp.
For a moment it seemed Wolves had squandered a critical opening. But after a quick throw, a burst and pull-back from McDonald, Henry arrived at the near post and flipped the ball over David Button.
That gave Wolves the second-half building block they wanted; sit-in and wait for that moment when Brentford would be over-exposed. And sure enough, after 72 minutes Jacobs drilled

minutes Jacobs drilled under Button. The coup de grace was even better and set up by Golbourne.

To finish Jacobs drilled in from 20 yards.



Striker Nouha Dicko and David Button clash during Wolves away victory against Brentford

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**Jones' double**Killer blow from
Albion for Glassboys

**Wolves winner** Jackett's squad stamp authority on match Page 39



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## I nearly auit over injury -Varnish

JESS VARNISH says she feared for her career as she plots her World Championships assault.

The Halesowen Cycling Club ace is in Cali, Colombia, ahead of the start of the Track Cycling World Championships. Varnish missed the Championships in Minsk last year with a back injury which sidelined her for five months.

She is likely to partner Becky James in the team sprint after James won the keirin and sprint in Belarus, while also claiming bronze with Victoria Williamson in the team sprint.

But Varnish admitted, after a torn disc ruined after a torn disc ruined 2013 she worried she may

after a torn disc ruined 2013, she worried she may never return.

"It got to the point where "It got to the point where I thought my career might be finished You feel like you lose your identity," said the 23-year-old.
"I worried all the time that I would not get back to where I was. I used to get on which and they to any my bite and they are the are they are the are they are the are they are they are the

my bike and try to put my hands on the handlebars and I thought, 'I don't want to do this, it is too painful'.

Appreciate
"I appreciate it more now, and to be in the team and going to the World Championships. I hadn't missed a Worlds since 2008.
"I didn't take it for

worlds since 2008.

"I didn't take it for granted, but I don't want to be sat at home watching it ever again. My form is good. I am just happy to be back."

### Rav back in the dugout

LEGENDARY boss Ray Graydon is set for a shock one-off return to the Walsall dug-out

The former chief, who twice led the club to pro-motion, will take charge of

motion, will take charge of a Saddlers Legends team at the Club Legends Cup tournament this summer.

Graydon, affectionately known by fans as "Sir Ray", has agreed to manage a side of 10 former players and five fans. They will take on teams from Midlands rivals Wolves, Villa, Albion and Blues, along with a media team in the tournament on July 12 at Birmingham's LG Arena.

All money raised will or

All money raised will go to support the charity Cure Leukaemia.

Former players poised to line-up for the Saddlers in-clude Tony Millard, Mark Taylor, Andy Reece, Brian Palgrave, Tony Barras and Andy Tilson

## Crunch talks are on cards for Albion's boss

PEPE MEL will hold crunch talks with his Albion squad this week after players raised concerns over the Baggies boss' survival

concerns over the Baggies boss survival tactics.

Mel is fighting to win over Albion's stars as he prepares for a vital 10 days that could make or break the club's top-flight future.

A series of meetings are now planned at the training ground this week involving players and coaches to draw up a new 'battle plan' for the remaining 11 games of the Premier League campaign.

Senior squad members are understood to have raised concerns at Mel's methods as the Spaniard searches for his first win as

Football

Hawthorns head coach. And the 50-year-old now faces a crucial week-and-a-half ahead of the Baggies' return to action against Man-chester United on March 8, during which he faces a major task to convince sceptical stars he can halt their relegation slide.

The players' worries, which have been confirmed by several sources close to the Albion dressing room, concern Mel's inability to communicate tactics and his style of play.

The former Real Betis coach arrived at The Hawthorns promising a high-pressing

approach based on his experiences in Spain but he has already compromised following a meeting with players, who were concerned that the Baggies squad was ill-suited to the new approach.

But worries are reported to hav resurfaced during last week's six-day training

camp in Spain.

The Hawthorns hierarchy have now become aware of the players' issues. One source said: "In training, the players are doing things and they don't know whether they are doing them right or wrong. Pepe has Keith Downing there with him and if there's a problem he should be putting

across what he wants to Keith, so he can relay that to the players. But that isn't always happening."

His limited English is a source of worry despite the recent arrival of former Betis coach David Gomez, who speaks good English, and the influence of Spanish speaker Dave McDonough, Albion's director of technical performance and scouting, who played a key role in Mel's recruitment and has become a more regular figure on the training ground. Another source said: "The players like Pepe but they are worried that he doesn't have enough experience of the English game."

## We were fantastic Henry

JAMES HENRY saysWolves have set the standard for the rest of League One to follow after their superb win at Brentford – as he targeted the title.

geted the title.

Wolves made it six wins in a row with their landmark 3-0 victory at Griffin Park on Saturday, ending the Bees' 19-match unbeaten run.

Their latest success say Their latest success saw Kenny Jackett's side climb back to second place, with only goals scored keeping them below leaders Leyton Orient, who have played two games more.

Henry scored the opener at the weekend – his seventh goal for Wolves – before Michael Jacobs's second successive brace sealed it.

successive brace sealed it

And Henry believes Wolves have put a marker down with their victory in the battle of the League One heavyweights.

heavyweights.

"Hopefully – that's what
we went there to do, to set
the standard," said the former Millwall wideman. We
went there wanting to take
all three points and we had
a game plan and that was
to try to get the first goal
and then be tight and try
to catch them on the break
and we did that. We were
fantastic."

## GLASSBOYS FA OP SCOR

Stourbridge 1 Hemel hempstead 4

LEAGUE leaders Hemel Hempstead continued their good run at the War Memorial Athletic Ground as they came out on top in an entertaining, incident-packed contest against 10man Stourbridge.

The hosts didn't enjoy the rub of the green, but they were also soundly punished for some shoddy defensive work by clinical sounds and the sounds of the sound of the sounds of the sounds of the soun fensive work by clinical finishes by the division's top scorers at one end.

one end.
Meanwhile at the other
Stourbridge struck the
woodwork twice and Hemel
custodian Laurie Walker
also produced a string of fine
saves to keep the Glassboys
at bay until late on.

#### Dreadful

Stourbridge got off to a dreadful start trailing 17 seconds after kick off. Lewis Toomey was allowed to run with the ball from close to halfway through the left channel area unchallenged before sending a 20-yard strike beyond the diving Dean Coleman. Dean Coleman.

Dean Coleman.
Stourbridge looked to respond with Ben Billingham feeding Kayelden Brown who cut inside, but his rising shot was safely held by Walker. However, the Glassboys were left reeling by two goals in quick succession that left Hemel firmly in the driving seat.

A goal-kick from Walker flew towards Toomey who

#### Football

the hesitant Coleman on the edge of the box and he went round the keeper be-fore being bundled over as he prepared to shoot having being closed down by both Will Richards and Netan Sansara. Richards was red carded

Richards was red carded after a discussion between the referee and his assistant, although Sansara appeared to be the guilty party.

Parkes stroked home the resulting spot-kick and within a couple of minutes he had struck again. Toomey nodded the ball on to Parkes and he struck a sumptuous first-time volley past Coleman. Despite being a man short, the home side continued to battle after the continued to battle after the break.

With eleven minutes left Stourbridge did manage to reduce the arrears when a goal-kick by Coleman was misjudged by Murphy, letting in Benbow who attacked the Hemel box and although he over-elaborated on the ball, he was still able to find Geddes and he tucked the ball low past Walker. Three minutes into stoppage time though Parkes grabbed a hat-trick goal to make sure of victory A goal-kick from Walker goal to make sure of victory flew towards Toomey who reached the ball ahead of a harsh look.



Sean Geddes slots in what would be the only goal for the Glassboys against Hemel Hempstead

#### Saddlers rematch tickets sell out

WOLVES fans have again showed their commitment to the cause after the club announced their allocation for next month's derby at Walsall is already sold out. The last of the 3,400 available tickets for the game at the Banks's Stadium on March 8 were snapped up last week. Walsallwon the first league meeting between the sides 1-0.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, February 27.

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